FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-069
Monday
11 April 1994

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-069

CONTENTS

11 April 1994

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

- ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 9 April 1
- ITAR-TASS Reviews 10 April Itogi Program 2

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- Yeltsin Insists on Consultations on Bosnian Strikes *[Moscow TV]* 3
  - Kozyrev: No Settlement Without Serbs *[ITAR-TASS]* 3
  - Russia Ready To Lift Sanctions *[INTERFAX]* 3
  - Serbs Ignored Russian Warnings *[Radio Rossii]* 4
  - Baburin Wants Sanctions Lifted *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
  - Deputies on Sanctions *[INTERFAX]* 4
  - Commander—No Russian Troops Injured *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
  - Ministry Wants UN Peacekeepers *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
  - Gorazde Shelling Halt Ordered *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
  - Foreign Ministry Statement *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
  - Churkin: No Affect on Ties *[Belgrade TANJUG]* 6
  - Airlift Suspension Not Discussed *[INTERFAX]* 6
  - Liberal Democrats Denounce Strike *[INTERFAX]* 6
- Zhirinovskiy's Party Against Contacts with NATO *[INTERFAX]* 7
  - Denounces Exercises With U.S. *[AFP]* 7
- Navy Command Protests Ukrainian Seizure of Fleet Unit *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
  - Fleet Press Center on Incident *[ITAR-TASS]* 8
  - Kozyrev, Ukraine's Zlenko Concerned *[ITAR-TASS]* 8
  - Shakhray—Duma To Investigate *[ITAR-TASS]* 8
  - Kravchuk, Chernomyrdin Discuss Incident *[INTERFAX]* 8
- Russia Demands Ukrainian Duties for Oil Supplies *[INTERFAX]* 9
- Israeli Plane Forced Down at Sochi *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
- Latvia Rejects Clarifications of Yeltsin Decree *[INTERFAX]* 9
  - Russia To Consult CIS on Bases *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
  - Commission To Investigate Edict 'Error' *[ITAR-TASS]* 10
- Presidential Press Secretary Briefs Journalists *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 9 Apr]* 10
- Kozyrev Interviewed on World, Domestic Issues *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 9 Apr]* 10
- Baltic Fleet Denies Selling Radioactive Hovercraft *[Moscow Radio]* 14
- Statement on Chemical Weapons Heard in The Hague *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
- Agreement on Principles Signed With Colombia *[ITAR-TASS]* 15
  - Kozyrev on Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 15
- Russia To Sell Cryogenic Rocket Boosters To India *[INTERFAX]* 15
  - MiG Maintenance Center Planned *[ITAR-TASS]* 15
- Agreement With Japan To Build Underground Nuclear Plant *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
- Communist Protesters Picket U.S. Embassy *[Moscow TV]* 16

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

- Kostikov Cites Plans To Change Government Policy *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 9 Apr]* 17
- Opposition Group Issues Demands on Civic Accord *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
- Zhirinovskiy 'Beat Up' Duma Deputy Borzyuk *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
  - Investigation Commenced *[Moscow Radio]* 17
- Zhirinovskiy Appoints 3 Deputies To LDPR Council *[INTERFAX]* 18
- Presidential Public Chamber: Russia Needs Civic Accord *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
- Shakray Pushes For Civic Peace Accord *[ITAR-TASS]* 18

Burbulis Welcomes 'New Political Reality' *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
    Conditions for Yeltsin Reelection *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
Shumeyko on Army Needs, Political Stability *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 2 Apr]* 19
Northern Fleet Sailor Kills 4, Takes Hostages *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
    Further Details of 'Emergency' *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
    Sailor Captured; Hostages Released *[ITAR-TASS]* 21
Grenade Incident at Moscow Subway Station; 13 Hurt *[ITAR-TASS]* 21
Bragin of Ostankino Appointed Deputy Culture Minister *[Moscow TV]* 21
IZVESTIYA: No Wish To Cast Suspicion on ITAR-TASS *[9 Apr]* 21

Economic Issues

Chubays on Privatization, Economic Reform *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 29 Mar]* 21
Gerashchenko: Interest Rates Will Be Reduced *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 8 Apr]* 24
Finance Minister Against Indexing Wages *[IZVESTIYA 9 Apr]* 24

Military, Space & Nuclear Issues

Defense Ministry Denies Air Defense Troops Disbanding *[ITAR-TASS]* 24
    Commander Outlines Troops' Problems *[Moscow TV]* 24
Nuclear Subs To Discharge Waste in Sea of Japan *[Moscow TV]* 25
Non-Piloted Space Programs Face Cuts *[ITAR-TASS]* 25

Regional Affairs

Chechen Leader Not To Reject Talks With Moscow *[ITAR-TASS]* 25
Chechnya Asks World To Denounce Russian Leadership *[INTERFAX]* 25
Dudayev Associate Wounded in Gang Warfare *[ITAR-TASS]* 26
Aushev Doubts Ingushetia's Stay in Federation *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 9 Apr]* 26
Nuclear Waste Leak Feared at Krasnoyarsk-26 *[INTERFAX]* 26
Kuban Cossacks Issue Ultimatum Over Immigrants *[IZVESTIYA 8 Apr]* 27
Military Seize Power Stations in Chita Region *[ITAR-TASS]* 27
Novosibirsk Voter Turnout Detailed *[VECHERNIY NOVOSIBIRSK 5 Apr]* 27

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Reporting on Black Sea Fleet Attack 29
    Ukraine Accuses Fleet of Removing Equipment *[Radio Rossii]* 29
    Kiev Cites 'Terrorist Act' *[Kiev International]* 29
    Ukrainian Troops Storm Unit *[ITAR-TASS]* 29
    Russian Sailors Said Wounded *[ITAR-TASS]* 29
    No Communications With Fleet Unit *[ITAR-TASS]* 29
    Response to Cheleken Incident *[UNIAR]* 30
    Defense Ministry: Facilities Freed *[ITAR-TASS]* 30
    Navy Officials Deny Claims *[Kiev Radio]* 30
Defense Minister, Polish Counterpart Discuss Cooperation *[Kiev International]* 31
    Hold News Conference *[Kiev International]* 31
Zlenko's Turkish Visit Deemed 'Quite Successful' *[UNIAN]* 32
Slepichev, Hungarian Counterpart Sign Trade Protocol *[UNIAR]* 33
Kravchuk Aide Suggests Leasing Russian Army Bases *[INTERFAX]* 33
U.S. Experts Ready To Help Shut Down Chernobyl Plant *[ITAR-TASS]* 33
Official Denies Report on Unsafe Uranium Processing *[ITAR-TASS]* 34
CSCE Expert Group Visits Crimea *[ITAR-TASS]* 34
Official Sees Crimea Acting as 'Bridge' *[Moscow Radio]* 34
Turkish Schooner Detained in Sea Economic Zone *[Kiev International]* 34
Ministry Declares Jewish Agency's Activity Illegal *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 2 Apr]* 34

National Affairs

IAEA Concerned at 'Critical State' of Chernobyl AES [*KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 9 Apr*] 35
Officers Visit Crimea, Deny 'Flexing Muscles' [*HOLOS UKRAYINY 7 Apr*] 35
Navy Command Appeals to Crimean Leadership [*ITAR-TASS*] 35
Crimean Aide: Ukraine Has Too Many Troops on Peninsula [*ITAR-TASS*] 35
President's Office in Crimea Deemed Legal [*ITAR-TASS*] 36
Meshkov Say He Will Not Meet Kravchuk's Envoy [*INTERFAX*] 36
Russia Bloc Wins Election to Crimean Parliament [*ITAR-TASS*] 36
Saburov Threatens To Quit After Meshkov Move [*NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 9 Apr*] 37
Meshkov Denies Report of Assassination Attempt [*NTV 9 Apr*] 37
Kostenko: 'President Is Under Nuclear Lobby's Thumb' [*VECHIRNIY KYYIV 2 Apr*] 37
Kravchuk Interviewed on Progress of Election [*Kiev International*] 38
Kravchuk Optimistic New Parliament Will Be Elected [*ITAR-TASS*] 39
Kravchuk Urges Religious Harmony [*DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA 5 Apr*] 39
Plyushch on Tasks of New Parliament, Future of CIS [*Kiev International*] 40
Polls Declared 'Valid in Nearly All Regions' [*ITAR-TASS*] 41
312 Elected to New Parliament; Zvyahilskyy Retains Seat [*ITAR-TASS*] 41
Roundup of Regional Election Results [*Kiev International*] 41
Results of Runoff Elections in Kharkov, Lugansk [*Kiev Radio*] 42
Lvov Oblast Results Summarized [*Kiev International*] 42
Most Election Victors Newcomers [*ITAR-TASS*] 42
Rukh To Form Faction in Supreme Council [*INTERFAX*] 42
Rukh's Chornovil Views Election Results [*RIA*] 43
Rukh Leader Abduction Linked to Oil Collector Plan [*KHRESHCHATYK 5 Apr*] 43

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Elections: Defense Ministry Warns on Army Involvement [*ITAR-TASS*] 45
Country Asks UN Help for Ethnic Belarusians in Baltics [*SEGODNYA 9 Apr*] 45
Defense Minister Discusses Russian Withdrawal [*Minsk Radio*] 45
General Rules out Foreign Military Presence [*INTERFAX*] 45
Referendum Proposed on Economic Integration With Russia [*INTERFAX*] 46
Monetary Union Talks Delegation Ends Visit to Moscow [*Foreign Ministry Department of Information*] 46

Moldova

Premier Sangheli Rejects Military Cooperation With CIS [*ITAR-TASS*] 46
Snegur, Smirnov Agree To Resume Dniester Negotiations [*Bucharest Radio*] 46
Snegur Acknowledges Starting Activities in Difficult Period [*INTERFAX*] 46
Snegur, Sangheli Address First Meeting of New Cabinet [*BASAPRESS*] 47
Parliament Debates, Ratifies CIS Agreements [*BASAPRESS*] 47
Dniester, Gagauz Republics Approve Accord Ratification [*INTERFAX*] 48
Opposition Sees New Government as 'Pro-Moscow' [*IZVESTIYA 7 Apr*] 48
CSCE Mission Head Talks With President Snegur [*INTERFAX*] 48
Russian Plan for Army Bases Rejected [*INTERFAX*] 49
Dniester's Shevtsov Views Relations, 14th Army [*BASAPRESS*] 49

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev: West Should Help Forward Russia's Reforms [*ITAR-TASS*] 50
Nazarbayev: 'Euro-Asian' Union Only 'Idea,' Not 'Proposal' [*ITAR-TASS*] 50
Advantages, Disadvantages of Eurasian Union Examined [*SNARK*] 50
Nazarbayev Concerned Over Russian Population Leaving [*ITAR-TASS*] 50
Nazarbayev Completes Visit to Japan [*Moscow Radio*] 51
Almaty, Moscow To Cooperate in Defense [*INTERFAX*] 51

Kyrgyzstan

Government Meets To Discuss 'Crisis' in Industry *[Bishkek Radio]* 51
Bishkek Soviet Discusses Boosting Economic Reforms *[Bishkek Radio]* 51

Tajikistan

Rakhmonov Interviewed on Islamabad Visit *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 7 Apr]* 52
Quadrilateral Talks on Tajik Refugees Held *[Dushanbe Radio]* 53
Post on Afghan Border Fired Upon; No Casualties *[ITAR-TASS]* 53
Statement: Border Clashes Aimed at Disrupting Talks *[INTERFAX]* 53
Tajikistan Sends Official Note to Afghanistan on Incident *[INTERFAX]* 54
Gunmen Fire on Absent Foreign Minister's Home *[AFP]* 54

Turkmenistan

Government Stops Gas Deliveries to Azerbaijan 7 Apr *[INTERFAX]* 54
    Deliveries Partially Resumed 11 Apr *[ITAR-TASS]* 54

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Government Issues Statement on Train Blast *[ITAR-TASS]* 55
President Ter-Petrosyan Leaves for Moscow *[SNARK]* 55
Armenia Unconcerned by Russian Military Presence *[INTERFAX]* 55
Delegates Leave for Prague CSCE Group Meeting *[SNARK]* 55
Students Begin Strike, Protest Military Roundup *[SNARK]* 55

Azerbaijan

Army Attacks Karabakh Front; Defenses Hold Firm *[Radio Rossii]* 55
    Air Raid on Stepanakert Kills 3 *[AFP]* 56
Radio says Aliyev Visited Karabakh Conflict Zone *[Radio Rossii]* 56
Proposal for 'Military Base' in Karabakh Rejected *[YENI GUNAYDIN 5 Apr]* 56
Group Opposes Return of Russian Troops *[TURAN]* 56
Baku Wants To Negotiate Lease on Radar Station *[INTERFAX]* 56
Country May Quit CIS, Fearing Russian Presence *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 8 Apr]* 56
'Source': Baku Has no Plans To Withdraw from CIS *[INTERFAX]* 57
Gasanov Skeptical About Eurasian Union *[TURAN]* 57
Turkmenistan Cuts Off Gas Upon Failure To Pay Up *[Baku TV]* 57
Police Protest Arrest of Chief for Theft *[TURAN]* 58
New 'Boz Gurd' Political Party Registered *[TURAN]* 58
Budget Deficit Soares in 1993 *[TURAN]* 58

Georgia

Abkhazian Parliamentarian Discusses 'Progress' *[SNARK]* 58
Shevardnadze Defends Right To Appoint Delegation *[CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY]* 58
Official Hopes Abkhazia Accord Will Be Honored *[INTERFAX]* 58
Shevarnadze Takes Over Talks on Abkaz Settlement *[INTERFAX]* 59
    Georgian-Abkhazian Agreement Signed *[Russian Television]* 59
    Further Details *[ITAR-TASS]* 59
Delegation To Discuss Deployment of UN Troops *[IBERIA]* 59
Abkhazia Blames Georgia for Attack on Kodor *[INTERFAX]* 59
Abkhazian Reconnaissance Group Said 'Eliminated' *[INTERFAX]* 60
Shevardnadze on IMF Recommendations *[Tbilisi Radio]* 60
Rebel Police Chief Demands Lucrative Job *[IBERIA]* 60

Explosion on Passenger Train Kills 3 *[Radio Rossii]* 60
  Further Details *[SNARK]* 60
  Investigators Leave for Scene *[SNARK]* 61
  TURAN Blames Ethnic Strife *[TURAN]* 61
Bomb Explodes in Office of SVOBODNAYA GRUZIA *[ITAR-TASS]* 61
Security Minister Discusses Current Problems *[SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA 24 Mar]* 61
Chief: Army To Have 'Adequate Fighting Capacity' *[INTERFAX]* 64
Police Disperses Gamsakhurdia Supporter Rally *[IBERIA]* 64
Social-Democrats Support Nazarbayev Proposal *[IBERIA]* 64
Kazimirov in Yerevan To Present Initiatives *[TURAN]* 65
Parliament on Georgian-Abkhazian Friendship *[SNARK]* 65

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Withdrawal Linking With Social Issues Deplored *[INTERFAX]* 66
  Envoy to Russia on Withdrawal Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 66
  Country Ready to Continue Talks *[SEGODNYA 9 Apr]* 66
Laar Begins 2-Day Visit to Norway 8 Apr *[BNS]* 66
  Holds Talks With Counterpart *[ETA]* 67
Dismantling of Russian Navy Nuclear Reactors Set *[INTERFAX]* 67
Defense Forces Main Staff Chief To Resign Soon *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 8 Apr]* 67
  Government Accepts Resignation *[BNS]* 67
New Union Vows To Fight 'Tyranny,' 'Oppression' *[Moscow Television]* 68
Price Index Rise Exceeds Predictions *[BNS]* 68

Latvia

Ulmanis Refuses To Sign Withdrawal Documents *[Russian Television]* 68
Bases Edict Prompts Ulmanis To Postpone Trip *[Riga Radio]* 68
Official: Policy Enforces Russian Influence *[BNS]* 68
National Independence Movement Discusses Talks *[DIENA 28 Mar]* 69
President Questions Need To Debate Agreement *[BNS]* 69
Birkavs, UN Secretary General Discuss Withdrawal *[ITAR-TASS]* 70
Faction Requests Review of Russian Borders *[DIENA 26 Mar]* 70
Russians Hand Over Control of Daugavpils Fortress *[BNS]* 70
Minister Departs for Conference in Lithuania *[BNS]* 70
President, Home Guard Discuss Cooperation With Police *[BNS]* 70
Battalion Leaves for Month-Long Field Exercises *[BNS]* 71
Interior Ministry Ready To Guard Press House *[BNS]* 71
Decision on Relay of Ostankino Broadcasts *[Riga Radio]* 71

Lithuania

Brazauskas Appoints New Military Leaders *[BNS]* 71
Premier To Visit Kuwait, Discuss Credits *[BNS]* 71
Parliament Passes Law on Excise, Value-Added Taxes *[BNS]* 72
Communists, Zhirinovskiy Allies 'Watched' *[BNS]* 72
Closed LDDP Meeting Views National Defense *[RESPUBLIKA 2 Apr]* 72
Landsbergis on Opposition Statement on Defense *[ELTA]* 73
Board Seeks Funds To Transmit Ostankino, Mayak *[ELTA]* 73

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 9 April

LD0904072094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0538 GMT 9 Apr 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow April 9 (TASS)—KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA publishes today an interview with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who said: "If Rutskoy or Zhirinovskiy (former vice president of Russia and the leader of the Liberal Democratic Party) become president, Russia will not survive... I do not see any accord on this matter... What is the essence of it? Should we reach accord on observing the constitution? The whole nation voted for the constitution. But those who called for violence in Russia should be kept in prison. As long as Zhirinovskiy does not give up his openly fascist slogans, as long as Rutskoy does not give up hope for actually repeating in Russia the Yugoslav model, I shall never be in agreement with them."

ROSSIYSKIE VESTI carries an article by Anatoliy Sliva, deputy to the State Duma and chairman of the committee for local self-government. "Russia will be neither democratic, nor law-governed, nor social state, if we do not ensure real local self-government, real people's power... The complexity of the problem consists in the fact that it is in the focus of various interests, some of which contradict each other, including those which are hampering the formation of real self-government."

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries an article, entitled "After Predicting the Establishment of a Dictatorial Regime, Alexey Kazannik Tenders Resignation for the Second Time." It analyses the reasons for that step, taken by the former prosecutor-general of Russia. The newspaper quotes an interview with Kazannik, the whole of which will be published in the next issue. He said: "After my dramatic resignation I saw for myself that President Boris Yeltsin needs a fully controllable, (?puppet) prosecutor-general, who will fulfil any, even illegal orders, and not only of the president, but also of some clerks from his administration."

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA publishes an article about Russia's Middle East policy, which says: "Moscow's activity in the Middle East is described as one of the reasons for the correction of Washington's foreign political course. However, the Russian Foreign Ministry believes that the participation in the settlement of Middle East problems is the most natural thing for Russia, and refutes both accusations of the attempts to get political dividends and the element of competitiveness between Moscow and Washington in the Middle East."

"Russia has become a sort of Mecca for illegal migrants," Yuriy Arkhipov, head of the external migration department of the Federal Migration Service, said in an interview with NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA. "From the legal point of view, it is not refugees who come to Russia, but people claiming the status of a refugee. They can get it only after a corresponding procedure, which presupposes an appeal to migration services. Foreigners who have not undergone that procedure cannot be regarded as refugees are are living on the territory of the country illegally. According to law-enforcement agencies, there are about half a million of immigrants from foreign countries, and their number continues to grow."

TRUD carries one more article about the causes of the crash of the A-310 plane near Novokuznetsk. "Valeriy Ekskuzyan, director-general of the Rossiyskie Avialinii air company, expressed disagreement with the preliminary conclusions of the government commission. He stressed that the commission's statement about the presence of third persons in the cabin is groundless. Some senior officials from the Russian Ministry of transport share his view. They say there is no indication to the incompetent operaration of the plane, which could cause its crash," the newspaper writes.

A decree of President Yeltsin and a corresponding order of the defence minister have actually given a new shape to the anti-aircraft defence troops: in the future they will become a basis for the creation of Russia's air and space defence, Air Force Colonel General Viktor Prudnikov, commander-in-chief of the anti-aircraft defence troops, said in an interview with KRASNAYA ZVEZDA published today. This will be a natural thing to do, because the air and space defence spheres are so closely connected with each other that they have long been regarded as a single whole, Prudnikov said. The principle of the formation of the anti-aircraft defence system will also be changed. It will become entirely different and will be based on a territorial principle. Anti-aircraft defence zones and districts will be created within the time limit set by the defence minister.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carries an interview with Vyacheslav Bulavkin, director-general of the Technomash production amalgamation, which is the chief enterprises in the sphere of rocket and space technologies. "Everyday life continually brings to my mind one and the same alarming thought: what will be the first to come—the realisation by the government and the legislators of the importance of the Russian defence industry, in which an enormous scientific and technological potential is concentrated and millions of people are working, or a social explosion? Experiments should not be staged on a live organism..."

PRAVDA publishes an article by Valeriy Zorkin, ex-chairman of the Constitutional Court, who writes: "The efficiency of power itself is the most important problem today, because order cannot be restored in the country without it. Strict discipline in the state apparatus and the curbing of the corruption of bureaucrats should become the first steps towards an agreement on national harmony, towards the consent of society to the taking of anti-crisis measures by these very power structures ... National harmony is possible only on the basis of changing a catastrophic course, imposed by radical 'democrats'". Echoing Zorkin, Chairman of the Russian

Christian Democratic Movement Viktor Aksyuchits said in an interview with PRAVDA: "Personal, group ambitions should not get an upper hand over common interest—those of the nation and the state. In any case, a chance for reaching accord should not be missed."

The NEVSKOE VREMYA newspaper writes that cases of "housing racket" are becoming more frequent in St. Petersburg. As a rule, criminals steal keys, penetrate a flat and force its owners, using violence, to sign documents for unequal exchange or the sale of the apartment. The worsening of the crime situation in the country is influencing the situation in the armed forces, the St. Petersburg-based newspaper NA STRAZHE RODINY writes. It was reported at a session of the military council of the Leningrad military district that several attacks on sentries had taken place in the district during the past year. Several cases of stealing arms and ammunition and leaving one's unit without permission were also registered.

ITAR-TASS Reviews 10 April Itogi Program

LD1104052594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0458 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Moscow April 11 TASS—Russian independent television analytical programme Itogi focussed on stabilisation of relations between the country's executive and legislative branches of power last week.

The fundamental meaning of the concept of national accord consists in establishing specific rules of the game between the political leaders represented in the bodies of state authority. The short-term aim is to reach stabilisation of relations between the president and the two chambers of the parliament. The latest clash between the two branches of power occurred over the Federation Council's decision not to release Aleksey Kazannik of his duties as Russia's chief prosecutor, as decreed by Yeltsin earlier. The results of the vote on the decree revealed that for the first time since it was established, the Federation Council declared its independent role, dispelling the image of a pro-president chamber, the Itogi host said. Some people regarded the incident as another clash between the legislature and the executive. The president's representative in the chamber Aleksandr Yakovlev expressed the hope that the upper chamber would return to the question again, and Aleksey Ilyushenko will remain the acting chief prosecutor until then.

Commenting on the situation, the presidential aide Grigoriy Satarov said in an interview with Itogi that many interpretations were prompted by political concerns. The vestiges of the old confrontation between the president and his extreme opponents were instrumental in this case, he said. A small part of the political forces is not interested in political and economic stabilisation which would be a poor background for them in the forthcoming elections. In appraising the chances of the parliament's approval of the presidential draft accord on civic peace in Russia, Grigoriy Satarov said the chances are fairly high and he did not see any serious obstacles to the approval of the document before the proposed deadline, April 28. [passage omitted]

Itogi interviewed lower chamber speaker Ivan Rybkin, an ardent supporter of the national conciliation concept. As concerns the approval of the presidential call for peace and concord in society, Ivan Rybkin stressed that there are forces in the Duma which can rally in order to achieve peace, concord and success of reforms. About his own political future, Ivan Rybkin declared he had never thought about running in the presidential elections in 1996. "But when I see many of those who nominate themselves for presidency, I know firmly after many years here that it is a heavy burden to bear and I understand that many of them will be simply crushed by this burden, the presidential duties, in the very first days. They should be more circumspecting and abstain from such actions the burden is too heavy and it is not for every man to bear". The realisation of the idea of national concord presupposes a definite representation of all major political forces of Russia in the parliament, the host said. Paradoxically, the radical reformers, who controlled much of the power in Russia until recently are probably experiencing the most difficulties in the State Duma. Last week the Russia's Choice coalition lost one of its leading figures—Gennadiy Burbulis left the ranks of the faction of which he was one of the founding fathers. Burbulis said in this connection that the country has radically changed lately and Russian society needs new political approaches, and added that he was planning to create a new political party for representatives of the private capital, who were not welcomed to Russia's Choice.

Commenting on the promotion of the presidium leader Sergey Shakhray to vice-premiership, Itogi stressed that Shakhray's party, the Party of Russian Unity and Accord, now has two vice-premiers in the government, more than any other political coalition. [passage omitted]

Yeltsin Insists on Consultations on Bosnian Strikes

LD1104095894 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0800 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Video report by correspondent Suntsov]

[Text] Before his departure for Madrid, Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin gave a press interview at the [Vnukovo-2] airport. He described his visit to Spain as important and emphasized the serious preparation of the documents, including the treaty on friendship and cooperation.

[Begin Yeltsin recording] These documents which are to be signed give the green light to a rapid development of cooperation between our countries. So far it has been, one must say frankly, slow, though our two countries have great potential both for developing bilateral relations and for influencing the policy in Europe and in the world. [end recording]

Asked about Russia's stand regarding the NATO air strike against the Bosnian Serbs and about his conversation early this morning with U.S. President Clinton, Boris Yeltsin said:

[Begin Yeltsin recording] Everything must be in accordance with the decisions of the United Nations. He did not answer my question this morning about whether the UN secretary general had given the go-ahead for this. We advocate discussion of this issue in the Security Council—without doubt. Speaking to Clinton, I insisted again and again that it is impossible to make decisions on such issues without prior consultations between the United States and Russia. It is impossible, and that will be our stand. [end recording]

[Moscow ITAR-TASS in English at 0604 GMT on 11 April adds, in a report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova on the Yeltsin-Clinton phone conversation: "The Russian president pointed out that he had a telephone conversation with U.S. President Bill Clinton 'at six in the morning today.' According to Boris Yeltsin, 'Bill Clinton was unable to reply whether the U.N. Secretary-General gave a go-ahead to the strikes.' Boris Yeltsin is convinced that 'all problems should be resolved strictly in accordance with U.N. decisions." Yeltsin said "Russia favours discussing this issue in the U.N. Security Council.']

[Moscow INTERFAX in English at 1120 GMT on 11 April adds: "Before flying to Spain on an official visit Yeltsin told journalists that Clinton had not said whether the UN secretary general had given his go ahead to the NATO air strike against Bosnian Serb positions in the vicinity of Gorazde. 'This is important to know because the air strike took place at night. Such actions should not be taken unless authorized by the UN,' Yeltsin said. 'It is also important to know what targets were destroyed. If only two tanks, it's one thing; if the civilian population suffered, it's another. In any case this incident has to be debated by the UN Security Council. I insisted that such decisions should not be made without Russia. This is our firm position.']

Kozyrev: No Settlement Without Serbs

LD0804174194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1444 GMT 8 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Taranov]

[Text] Moscow, 8 Apr—"Relations between our two countries have good prospects. The Russian leadership, and not extremist circles, is a good and reliable friend of the leadership of the Serb Republic," Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said today during the talks with Radoman Bozovic, chairman of the Chamber of Citizens of the Federal Assembly (parliament) of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. It is possible to reach such a settlement which could be implemented in practice, the Russian minister said.

"The settlement in Bosnia is not possible without the Serbs. The Russian side advocates lifting the sanctions, which have already become an anachronism, as soon as the agreement on the settlement in Bosnia has been signed," the Russian minister said. Andrey Kozyrev appreciated Belgrade's goodwill to continue a political dialogue in Bosnia.

Russia Ready To Lift Sanctions

LD0804201194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1742 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Russia is ready to initiate the lifting of international sanctions against former Yugoslavia after a settlement in Bosnia and Herzegovina is signed, Political Advisor of the Russian Foreign Minister, Galina Sidorova told Interfax. Sidorova said Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev had met Chairman of the parliament of the United Republic of Yugoslavia, Radoman Bozovic, today in Moscow and had made Moscow's position known. "The sanctions were imposed due to the specific situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. As the situation changes, the need for sanctions disappears," Sidorova said.

Sidorova suggested that this new opportunity must be used to settle the conflict in ex-Yugoslavia. She believes that the Serbs should participate in the agreement recently signed by Bosnian Moslems and Croats. "Russia will agree with any decision acceptable for all Bosnian parties. However, it is obvious that no settlement in Bosnia and Herzegovina will work without the participation of the Serbs." She spoke for an urgent agreement on a cease-fire between Bosnian Serbs and Moslems at the talks begun today in Sarajevo. "The sooner it happens, the more chances there will be for the success of the political dialogue," Sidorova stressed.

Bozovic emphasized the important role of the Russian diplomacy on Balkans. He said the recent positive changes were due to Russia's activities. Bozovic stressed that he had met many Russian parliamentarians representing different political blocs and factions. Practically all of them spoke for lifting sanctions against Belgrade. These sanctions are counter-productive and can only do harm, Bozovic said.

Serbs Ignored Russian Warnings

LD1104121494 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Report by RIA-Novosti correspondent Sergey Gryzunov]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] We have learned from well-informed diplomatic sources that Russia repeatedly warned the Bosnian Serb leadership about the danger of stepping up their activities in eastern Bosnia. The last of these warnings was made just a few hours before the air strike. In response, the Russian embassy in Belgrade received firm promises that there would be no aggravation of the situation. But literally a few hours later Serb detachments mounted an offensive on Gorazde and occupied its southern part. As a result, the airplanes were forced to intervene after the lives of UN observers came under threat. [passage omitted]

After Russian diplomacy averted the bombing of Serb positions in Sarajevo, a dangerous confidence in their own impunity manifested itself among the Bosnian Serb leaders, generals, and soldiers. The withdrawal of heavy weapons was presented by local propaganda as a Serb victory, and the fact that NATO did not mount air strikes was seen as a sign of weakness and hesitation. But now the Rubicon has been crossed. A fundamentally new situation has arisen, in which the Russian president's special envoy Vitaliy Churkin will have to use all his influence and skill to continue his peace-brokering mission and the talks.

He has now begun a meeting with Serb President Slobodan Milosevic, during which Moscow's views on what happened in eastern Bosnia will probably be set forth.

Baburin Wants Sanctions Lifted

LD0804152894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1427 GMT 8 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent pavel Kuznetsov]

[Text] Moscow April 8 TASS—Russian leftist leader Sergey Baburin said on Friday that sanctions against Yugoslavia should be scrapped. Baburin, a rather influential member of the current and last parliaments, leader of the pro-Communist Russian National Union, was speaking to reporters after his return from Sarajevo, Belgrade and serb Krajina.

"It is necessary to boost the efforts of the Russian Government, parliament and Foreign Ministry to lift the U.N. sanctions against the Union Republic of Yugoslavia and fight for a halt to Russia's participation in these sanctions", Baburin said, adding that Russia should become more active with its humanitarian aid to Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

Baburin backed the idea of sending more Russian peacekeepers to Sarajevo, but rejected the idea of sending Turkish units to the conflict zone under the aegis of the United Nations. "There is a threat of Islamic domination, even of a rebirth of fundamentalism (in the Balkans)", he noted.

Deputies on Sanctions

LD0804194694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1742 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] A group of Russian deputies who have just returned from a trip to Yugoslavia intends to seek changes in the procedure for delivering humanitarian aid to Yugoslavia even before the economic sanctions on Serbia and Montenegro are lifted. The deputies demanded that the permission required to deliver aid be replaced with a simple notice of delivery. This statement was made by the leader of the deputies' group Russian Way, Sergey Baburin, at a news conference Friday. The delegation included mostly deputies from the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, Agrarian Party, Russian Communist Party and groups Russian Way and New Regional Policy.

Baburin pointed out that changing the procedure for delivering humanitarian aid would enable Russia to intensify aid to the people of Serbia without waiting for the lifting of the sanctions. In their statement, the deputies pointed to the need to intensify the activities of the Russian government and the parliament to lift U.N. sanctions against Yugoslavia.

As has already been reported, the issue was included in the agenda of the State Duma's session this week. It was proposed to recommend to the Russian president and government to decide on Russia's participation in the sanctions, boost humanitarian aid to Yugoslavia, including oil and gas supplies, and intensify bilateral economic cooperation.

Deputy Viktor Veshnyakov of the Liberal Democratic Party faction supposed Russia should be ready to enter the Yugoslav market, including that of defense systems, immediately after the sanctions are lifted.

Commander—No Russian Troops Injured

LD1104073594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0656 GMT 11 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow, 11 Apr—The Russian Federation servicemen carrying out peacekeeping tasks in the Sarajevo area suffered no injuries in the air raids by two NATO bombers that on the evening of 10 April carried out strikes against Serb positions near the Bosnian town of

Gorazde. Colonel-General Yevgeniy Podkolzin, commander of the air assault troops, informed the ITAR-TASS correspondent of this today, citing the morning report from commanders of both peacekeeping battalions fulfilling tasks in the Balkans.

Yevgeniy Podkolzin was very adverse in his response to the NATO generals' decision to inflict strikes against civilian targets located far from the front line, which have caused to casualties. "The Russian Federation soldiers in this conflict see their task to be to bring peace to people, not to resort to such extreme measures", the commander of the air assault troops stressed.

Ministry Wants UN Peacekeepers

LD1104134894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1328 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow April 11 TASS - Russia suggested on Monday that a contingent of UN peacekeepers be sent urgently to Gorazde. The Foreign Ministry also called in a statement to withdraw Serb troops from the besieged Moslem enclave and for "the demilitarization of the safety zone, including the disarming of Moslem units acting in the area".

"We see the task of the UN Security Council in actively promoting these goals", the statement said.

Gorazde Shelling Halt Ordered

LD1104131694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1306 GMT 11 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kondrashov]

[Text] Belgrade April 11 TASS—Muslims were the first to initiate combat activities in Gorazde, however leader of Bosnian Serbs Radovan Karadzic ordered to stop any shelling of the town upon a Russian request, Russian Special Envoy to former Yugoslavia Vitaliy Churkin told TASS on Monday.

He explained that after NATO air strikes new reports about Serbian attacks on Gorazde appeared. He then discussed the issue at talks with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic who, in his turn, contacted Karadzic and the latter ordered to cease fire.

Churkin believes that the fighting near Gorazde testifies that neither the Serbian nor Muslim military can be well controlled. "It is to be remembered that it were the Muslims who were the first to begin combat activities in Gorazde despite the fact that the region was proclaimed a safety zone by the UN", the Russian envoy stressed.

In general the situation has become critical after NATO air strikes, according to Churkin. "A new element has appeared - the interference of the United Nations into the Bosnian conflict. There is a tendency of moving to a greater confrontation", he said and added that the major task is to avert the tendency and conclude a ceasefire agreement.

Upon a request of Milosevic, Churkin is now heading to Pale, the capital of Bosnian Serbs, to "try and bring together the fragments of the Bosnian peaceful settlement".

After the NATO air strikes Bosnian Serbs announced they stop any cooperation with the UN forces. "However, during our meeting with President Milosevic today an understanding was reached that the process could not go uncontrolled, that it is necessary to reach a ceasefire agreement which the sides failed to do over the last days", he said.

"The talk is about an armistice along the whole of the frontline", the Russian envoy said.

Churkin regretted that neither UN nor NATO had consulted Russia before the air strikes although they had enough time for that. However, Bosnian Serbs did not consult Russia either. They responded to all Russian requests that they had no plans regarding Gorazde and that there was no necessity for Russia to resort to serious actions to normalise the situation in the town, according to the Russian envoy.

"All sides could have exerted efforts so that Russia did mediate. But this was not done", Churkin said. He did not rule out that NATO may resume air strikes on Bosnian Serbs. "At present no possible combat actions can be ruled out", he stressed.

Foreign Ministry Statement

LD1104130494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1246 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow April 11 TASS—The Russian Foreign Ministry released the following statement on Monday:

"According to the information the Russian Foreign Ministry has at the moment, in the evening of April 10 NATO aviation, which, according to U.N. Security Council decisions, was exercising control in the no-fly zone in Bosnia-Herzegovina, delivered bomb strikes on Bosnian Serbs' artillery positions which shelled Gorazde and where, apart from civilians, U.N. and international red cross workers were staying. The U.N. secretary-general's envoy to the former Yugoslavia Yasushi Akashi discussed with Butrus-Ghali the possibility of using aviation to protect U.N. personnel in retaliation to artillery shelling of safe havens, including Gorazde, as envisaged by U.N. Security Council resolutions.

"These violations cannot be tolerated. However, neither one must support provocations to which the Muslim side resorts, of which U.N. officials have repeatedly reported. In its statement of April 6, 1994 the U.N. Security Council demanded an end to the provocation from either side.

"Unfortunately, Russia was informed about the decision to use aviation retrospectively. We expect full information from the U.N. leadership about what happened.

"As a direct and active participant in the Bosnian settlement Russia stands for the prevention of escalation of this conflict and for invigoration on the part of the international community of efforts aimed at showing all sides the road to peace."

Churkin: No Affect on Ties

LD1104124194 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1105 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Belgrade, 11 Apr, (TANJUG)—Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic today received the Russian president's special envoy Vitaliy Churkin who arrived in Belgrade last night in the context of preparations for further negotiations between the Republic of Serb Krajina and Croatia.

NATO's military operation against the Serbs in Bosnia last night has obviously brought about a change to the agenda for the talks between Milosevic and Churkin, as well as a change in the timetable of the Russian envoy's visit. Instead of travelling to Zagreb, as he initially planned, Churkin will pay an urgent visit to Pale.

Following his two hour talks with President Milosevic, Churkin described the latest situation in Bosnia in the wake of NATO's military operation as a very serious one, stressing that the peace process has been pushed down a dangerous ravine.

In Churkin's words, at the moment Moscow's diplomatic efforts are being invested in such a way whereby the tragic experience in Gorazde will not be repeated anywhere else in Bosnia. In this context he told reporters that he was immediately setting off for Pale where he will talk to representatives of the Serb republic. He did not rule out contacts with other sides, including the Americans too.

The Russian envoy said that President Milosevic today had asked him to try and help in order to have this present dangerous situation overcome. We are aware of the problems arising between the Bosnian Serbs and UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force]. I nevertheless believe that we can help in restarting the negotiating process.

In Churkin's opinion, it is now of crucial importance to reach a firm agreement on the cessation of hostilities across the entire territory of Bosnia, including Gorazde.

One of the questions addressed to Churkin was whether NATO had consulted Moscow before attacking the Serb positions around Gorazde. No, we were not informed about the attack, Churkin said. He added that Moscow had certain objections about the level of communication between all factors involved in the Bosnian conflict. He said that Moscow had received assurances from the Bosnian Serbs that nothing serious would happen in Gorazde. He stressed that if Russia had been more involved and better informed about the situation around Gorazde, certain things would not have happened, obviously hinting to last night's NATO attack.

In the Russian envoy's opinion, NATO's military action will have no influence on the relations between Moscow and Washington. He said that Russia and the United States are working together to solve the Bosnian conflict, that sometimes they had different approaches, but that was not a reason to give up on joint action. Churkin expressed hope that, by working together, Moscow and Washington could achieve a lot in order to bring the situation, which is now exceptionally dangerous, back to normal.

Asked whether NATO's consultation with Moscow about yesterday's action would have been necessary, Churkin said yes. He believes that not only consultations between NATO and Moscow would have been necessary, but that it was particularly important that UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali should have informed Russia about what was going on around Gorazde.

However, Butrus-Ghali did not do that, and Churkin sees the great speed in the development of the situation around Gorazde as the only justification for that. In the end, stressing the necessity of better communication between the crucial players in the Bosnian conflict, Churkin said that he hoped that NATO would learn a lesson from yesterday's action and not do that again.

Airlift Suspension Not Discussed

LD1104115294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1046 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] The leadership of the Russian Defense Ministry did not consider the question of suspending the airlift to the former Yugoslavia of an additional contingent of Russian peace-keepers due to the NATO air strike against Serb positions in the area of Gorazde, INTERFAX was told by the spokesman for the Defense Ministry Vladimir Kosarev.

He said that a Ukrainian infantry company of the peace-keeping contingent is stationed in the vicinity of Gorazde where earlier NATO forces bombed the Bosnian Serb positions. The spokesman said that there are no casualties among the Ukrainian servicemen.

Earlier the Federation Council decided to send to the former Yugoslavia an additional 300 Russian servicemen to raise the number of the Russian contingent to 1500 people.

Liberal Democrats Denounce Strike

LD1104115094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1122 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] "The Russian Liberal-Democratic Party denounces the air strike against the Serb positions near the town of Gorazde by the UN armed forces," says the party's Supreme Council statement spread in the State Duma Monday. The statement says that similar actions "destabilize the situation in the Balkans, internationalize the conflict, which is the internal affair of the state structures formed on the basis of the former republics of Yugoslavia."

The statement says that the world wars of the 20th Century were unleashed in the Balkans and adds that the "Russian people support their Serb brothers."

Liberal Democratic party chairman Vladimir Zhirinovskiy is currently in Strasburg where the Russian parliamentary delegation takes part in the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe.

Zhirinovskiy's Party Against Contacts with NATO

LD0804205494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1828 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] At the end of the evening sitting of the State Duma Friday, the leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR), Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, made a statement on behalf of his faction. He said that it was against any contacts with NATO as well as Russia's joining the program Partnership for Peace and the Council of European.

Zhirinovskiy said that before a Russian parliamentary delegation left for Strasbourg, the State Duma should take a vote on what kind of position it should take there. "The delegation to Strasbourg must have powers," he said.

Zhirinovskiy pointed out that the LDPR was against any military exercises which involved the participation of foreign troops on Russian territory. The Russian military taking part in such exercises together with Americans would lose their shoulder stripes if another regime came to power, he was quoted as saying.

Zhirinovskiy called on the deputies to take a stance in the wake of the initiative by Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev on Kazakhstan's joining Russia and Belarus in the united ruble zone and demanded the resignation of a number of ministers. However, he did not indicate to whom he was referring.

As a sign of protest, the deputies of Russia's Choice left the hall as soon as Parliamentary Speaker Ivan Rybkin allowed Zhirinovskiy to take the floor. For his part, Zhirinovskiy asked the health care minister to prescribe them some medicine, because the faction of Russia's Choice had been clinically dead for the last four months, he said.

Denounces Exercises With U.S.

AU0804153194 Paris AFP in English 1456 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow, April 8 (AFP)—A senior defense official said Friday that U.S. and Russian troops would hold joint exercises in Russia later this year, but the announcement sparked an angry outcry from hardline lawmakers.

"American troops will never set foot on Russian territory," ultranationalist deputy Vladimir Zhirinovskiy said shortly after Deputy Defense Minister Georgi Kondratyev announced the planned exercises to the State Duma.

"Officers who think they can get an extra star from organizing this kind of exercise should remember that the regime here will change one day and they will lose everything," Zhirinovskiy stated.

Kondratyev said the joint exercises, agreed to during the Russian-U.S. summit in January, would be held in July in the southern Urals region of Orenburg and would be conducted by the 27th Motorized Division of the Russian Army and the U.S. 3d Mechanized Infantry Division. A total of 250 soldiers from each country, most of them officers, were to take part in the exercises, Kondratyev said, adding that they would focus on exploring ways Russian and U.S. troops could coordinate work in peacekeeping operations. The Russian side would be equipped with 10 armoured vehicles and 23 cars while the U.S. participants would have only 35 cars, he stated.

Kondratyev stressed that the U.S. Government would pay all expenses for its troops, estimated at two million dollars, and noted that the U.S. troops would arrive supplied with all the food needed for the exercises. Russian expenses for the exercises would be about 100 million rubles (55,000 dollars), he said.

Zhirinovskiy and other hardline deputies however denounced the plan and one, Alexander Mikhailov, called on the Duma to appeal to President Boris Yeltsin and to the government to cancel the exercises. "Who will keep an eye on the Americans and who will guarantee us that they will not start recruiting spies in the heart of Russia!" said Alexander Nevzorov, another hardline nationalist and former television commentator.

Navy Command Protests Ukrainian Seizure of Fleet Unit

LD1104104794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1019 GMT 11 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow April 11 TASS— The main command of the Russian Navy resolutely protested against the seizure by Ukrainian commandos of a unit of the Black Sea Fleet stationed near Odessa.

"Such actions can be interpreted only as political irresponsibility and deliberate ignoring of the Russian-Ukrainian agreements reached in Yalta and Massandra", the press service of the Navy told TASS on Monday qualifying the events as "provocative".

"The actions of the Ukrainian side are provocative in essence and form, are a flagrant violation of the reached agreements and create an explosive situation on the Black Sea Fleet", the press service said.

120 Ukrainian commandos from a special task force seized late on Sunday a division of the Black Sea Fleet, including its coast facilities, the communication centre, the premises containing secret documents and weapons. Commander of the unit Captain First Rank Oleg Feoktistov and Commander of the coast units Captain Second Rank Dmitriy Starikov were arrested, handcuffed and taken to the military commandant's office. Chief of staff Captain Second Rank Aleksandr Zelenko was also arrested. Navymen and members of their families were beaten during the attack.

"Who could have ordered such actions against a military unit making part of the Black Sea Fleet which is subordinated to the presidents of Russia and Ukraine?", the press service asked and added that most indignation is caused by brutalities of Ukrainian commandos towards family members of navymen.

Fleet Press Center on Incident

LD0904145094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1400 GMT 9 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow April 9 (TASS)—"Ukrainian border guards were overexcited with patriotism," Head of the Black Sea Fleet Press Center Andrey Grachev told ITAR-TASS here today, commenting on the Odessa conflict of Russian seamen with Ukrainian border guards.

In his words, the Russian Cheleken military vessel arrived in Odessa to load hydrographic equipment and carry it to Sevastopol. However, last night Ukrainian border guards tried to prevent this and even placed armed guards near the ship. Their actions almost provoked a serious conflict.

In the opinion of Grachev, Ukrainian military are responsible for the attempt to hamper the planned transportation of Russian property for repairs. He stressed that the Russian hydrographic vessel which has a military crew shall not be liable for customs and border inspection. There are no documents to prohibit such actions in the Black Sea Fleet's operational zone.

Kozyrev, Ukraine's Zlenko Concerned

LD0904164294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1605 GMT 9 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow April 9 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and his Ukrainian counterpart Anatoliy Zlenko expressed concern over the Odessa April 8 incident involving the hydrographic vessel of the Black Sea Fleet. Sources at the Russian Foreign Ministry told ITAR-TASS that a telephone conversation of the two ministers resulted in an agreement on further contact on the issue as well as measures to clarify the circumstances of the incident and normalize the situation.

The Russian side stressed the need for normal activities of the Black Sea Fleet and maximum objectiveness and restraint in consideration of the facts. In his turn, Anatoliy Zlenko shared this point of view, said the sources.

Shakhray—Duma To Investigate

LD1104111894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1059 GMT 11 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[Text] Moscow April 11 TASS— The State Duma will react "adequately and professionally to the incident with the division of Russian warships in Odessa, according to Sergey Shakhray, leader of the Duma faction of the Party of Russian Unity and Accord.

Responding to a request from journalists for commentary on the possible reaction of the Russian Parliament to Ukrainian commandos' storming of the Russian naval installation in Odessa, Shakhray said that that the Duma Council has instructed Chairman Ivan Rybkin to look into the circumstances of the incident.

Shakhray further said that the Duma Council has requested the Defence Ministry and the Russian Foreign Ministry to provide information about the incident. According to Shakhray, Deputy Defence Minister Boris Gromov confirmed that the Ukrainian commandos arrested the commander of the Russian naval division, his deputy and several midshipmen and sailors.

Kravchuk, Chernomyrdin Discuss Incident

LD1104141694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1327 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] According to a well-informed source in Kiev, the Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk and the Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin had a telephone conversation on Monday to discuss the attack of the Ukrainian special forces on the Odessa division of Black Sea Fleet mothballed ships and the arrest of three naval officers.

The office of the Russian head of government confirmed the fact of the conversation, but refused to disclose the details. According to sources in the Russian Cabinet, on Monday the Russian government intends to issue an official statement on the attack in Odessa.

Russia Demands Ukrainian Duties for Oil Supplies

LD0904134594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1243 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] The Russian Customs Committee arrested the account of the major Russian state enterprise "Rosneft" demanding payment of customs duties worth more than 148 billion rubles for supplies of 2.6 million tonnes of oil to Ukraine.

As the Oil Information Agency learned in the Russian Customs Committee, its leadership is not yet prepared to comment on the incident, "because we understand that we create a precedent of persecuting a state enterprise which fulfils orders of the government."

At the same time, representatives of West Siberian oil and gas enterprises told the agency's correspondent that they do not rule out the possibility of appealing to the Russian President's Administration's Control Department following the facts "of absurd attempts to take the money for export of oil which we must supply under intergovernment agreements to those who do not pay for it." Out of the total amount of payment for this lot of Russian oil (225 billion rubles) Kiev paid less than half.

A well-informed source in "Rosneft" said in an interview with the Oil Information Agency that Russian oil and gas enterprises received an additional export quota for supplies in the summer of 1993 of 2.6 million tonnes of oil to Ukraine in connection with "the need to supply this oil anywhere, in order just to unload pipelines." He said that Kiev and Moscow acted in the framework of the Russian-Ukrainian intergovernment agreement envisaging tough terms of payment for Russian fuel supplied to Ukraine. "Rosneft's duty was to conclude contracts with oil plants concerning technical organization of supplies and control payments by the Ukrainian side.

Kiev in turn promised to attract foreign investors for paying Russia up to $50 million a month and to purchase up to 20 billion rubles on hard currency exchange to pay for oil supplies. However, despite efforts by Russian organizations, the full debt has not been repaid.

Russian government experts note the weakening of Russia's positions on the world and domestic oil markets caused by a fall in oil prices and non-payments crisis. In their opinion, attempts to increase financial pressure on fuel and energy complex enterprises may cause a sharp decline in the extraction of oil and other fuels, as well as a sharp reduction of oil and gas exports.

Israeli Plane Forced Down at Sochi

LD1104101894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1005 GMT 11 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow April 11 TASS—Fighters of the Russian airforce forced to land an Israeli "Gulfstream-159" plane flying from Tbilisi, Georgia, to Tel Aviv after it had violated the rules of crossing the Russian border and using the national airspace, spokesman of the Russian Air Defence Leonid Shirobokov told TASS on Monday.

The incident occurred on Saturday when the plane entered the Russian airspace to the south-east of the city of Mineralnye Vody without a preliminary request and permission from authorities.

The plane ignored the demands of Russian authorities to return back to the airport of departure and continued the flight. Russian airforce fighters then intercepted the plane and forced it to land in Adler, the airport of Sochi.

Latvia Rejects Clarifications of Yeltsin Decree

LD0804202794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1719 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Latvia will not accept Moscow's clarifications about President Yeltsin's decree 174 of April 5 because of its sovereignty being put under threat, Latvian Embassy officials told Interfax. They referred to Friday's statement that Latvian ambassador Janis Peters made to Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin.

President Yeltsin on Thursday issued a decree supporting proposals by the defence and foreign ministries to set up Russian military bases in other CIS states and Latvia. Officials of both ministries later spoke of "technical mistakes" being made in drafting the paper and Russian Ambassador to Riga Aleksandr Rannikh made a formal apology to the Latvian Foreign Ministry.

Latvian Embassy officials said Churkin had suggested that the two countries should maintain their relations as usual working on the assumption that the Yeltsin decree did not exist. He was also quoted as having promised a thorough investigation into the origin of the paper "which is out of line with bilateral agreements, already initialled."

Russia To Consult CIS on Bases

LD0804132294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1222 GMT 8 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Kochuk]

[Text] Moscow April 8 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev denied the existence of a presidential resolution about military bases in the CIS which had appeared in the press, but said the document is being drafted.

The document is being drafted and positions of CIS countries and of the "near abroad" will be (undoubtedly) taken into consideration, Kozyrev said after talks with his Columbian counterpart Nohemi Sanin Posada de Rubio. The "near abroad" includes all former Soviet republics.

"The issue of deploying Russian military bases will be discussed only with those countries which display such an interest", the Russian foreign minister said.

Commission To Investigate Edict 'Error'

LD0904100294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0950 GMT 9 Apr 94

[By Anna Melnikova, ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 9 April—"The technical error that appeared in the Russian president's instruction of 5 April will undoubtedly be subject to serious investigation within the presidential structures responsible for preparation of this document," Sergey Kravchenko, deputy head of the Russian president's administration, stated today in the Kremlin in an exclusive interview with the ITAR-TASS correspondent.

He explained that instead of the words "military installation," which can be understood as a technical facility, a term "military base" has crept in, which radically changes the meaning of the document.

Sergey Kravchenko said that "a special commission for investigation into the circumstances surrounding this case will be set up in the next few days." In his view, it can be set up "by the president himself or the head of his administration." The deputy head of the Russian president's administration did not rule out the possibility of "this being not just a technical mistake but a political action aimed at disrupting the meeting between the Russian and Latvian heads of state."

Presidential Press Secretary Briefs Journalists

PM0804165394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Apr 94 First Edition pp 1-2

[Vladimir Yanchenkov report: "Vyacheslav Kostikov Briefing"]

[Text] At a routine Kremlin briefing yesterday Vyacheslav Kostikov, the Russian president's press secretary, briefed Russian and foreign journalists on the program for Boris Yeltsin's forthcoming official visit to Spain. He noted that Russia has long-standing political, cultural, and international links with this state. Seven documents will be signed—the most important being a treaty of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. It is worth noting, Kostikov said, that it has been decided to sign these documents in the Moncloa Palace, where the agreement on civil consensus in Spain was once signed. This fact, the press secretary believes, forms a kind of bridge between international actions and our current domestic problems.

Vyacheslav Kostikov went on to answer numerous questions from journalists on Russia's international and domestic policy. Explaining the situation within the Russian Federal Assembly Federation Council in connection with the discussion of the question of former General Prosecutor Aleksey Kazannik, the press secretary expressed disappointment at what had happened, but does not think that the Federation Council intended to seek a confrontation with the president. Unfortunately, emotions prevailed, and the Federation Council itself will have to find a way out of this involved situation.

Answering a question about State Duma deputies' attitudes toward the signing of NATO's "Partnership For Peace" program, the press secretary noted that our position is to avoid any confrontation between the president and the State Duma on this issue. NATO's "Partnership For Peace" program, Vyacheslav Kostikov believes, presupposes extensive cooperation both in politics and in the military sphere, but one of the most important elements of big-time politics—the economy—cannot be hived off. Russia, as is well known, would like to join the G-7. Why not link these problems? If we are being invited to engage in partnership on an equal basis in the political and military spheres, then it would probably be logical to extend this approach to the economy as well.

The briefing also touched on the question of G. Burbulis' departure from the "Russia's Choice" parliamentary faction. Of course, Vyacheslav Kostikov said, it is disappointing that the trailblazers of Russian democracy are leaving "Russia's Choice"—where the forces of democracy are concentrated. When asked by this ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA correspondent why the president's instructions on restoring order on the North Caucasus Railroad—where robbery and theft from trains traveling from Chechnya continue—are not being fulfilled, the press secretary replied that the question was a fair one, that corresponding instructions had been issued to the Defense Ministry, and that the military should be approached for further explanations.

Kozyrev Interviewed on World, Domestic Issues

PM1104134794 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 9 Apr 94 p 7

[Interview with Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev on board a Tu-134 by Nikolay Dolgopolov; date, precise location not given: "Conversation with Minister Kozyrev in the Heavens"]

[Excerpts] People in the West—and, above all, at home—have all been amazed at how Kozyrev has changed. There are far fewer rumors about his resigning and more and more talk about his and Russia's political firmness. What is the reason for this change in the foreign minister's image and in Russia's foreign policy course? Our long discussion took place on board a Tu-134, and, surprisingly, Kozyrev had left his usual diplomatic restraint back on the ground. [Passage omitted]

[Dolgopolov] We have now, touch wood, removed the threat of nuclear war. I have a different question. Today our Russian diplomatic service and you as its main repository have a new image—a fairly aggressive one. I did not board this aircraft to praise you. But over the last few months things have been more successful for Russia in this field. Let us recall poor Yugoslavia at least. What is the reason for the turnaround? And how do those Americans who, I bet, are unaccustomed to seeing you as a determined man, react to these changes? Is there a grain of truth in my observations?

[Kozyrev] Certainly. Russia will never become a second-rate, insignificant country. We will put straight anyone who does not understand that right away. Russia must be a great, global power. But I must point out that diplomacy and indeed policy as a whole never arise out of nothing. They derive strength from society and are shaped by the state. But we have a new Russian state system, it has already found its level. And diplomacy is accordingly acquiring a different voice. This is very easy to talk about now, whereas back in 1991 we had to speak loudly and energetically. People forget one thing: Our huge state had after all broken up then. And our newly formed country was faced initially not with the question of having a loud voice but of having a voice at all and remaining within the international system. No one said that the Russian Federation is the rightful heir of the Soviet Union's legacy. I admit to you that in those conditions the task of practicing the diplomacy of the least possible losses is a highly complex one. That is roughly what we did in 1991, when the Union ceased to exist, and in 1992. Never mind the luxuries, all we wanted to do was stay alive.

And we survived. What is more we joined all the international organizations to which the USSR was just not admitted. Everything comes to him who waits. That is why Russian diplomacy is growing stronger now. As a professional I am surprised by the fact that at this time a host of people has emerged who are yelling: But I was defending my doctor's thesis back then, in the second year at the institute. However, you must not forget that the Soviet Union was a very unique state. It bore a kind of mark of Cain. Although it is our homeland and we do of course take pride in a lot of its heritage, the country was not entirely normal. You see what our diplomacy has had to come through. Everything's time comes. I want Russian statehood to grow stronger. And we need a firm authority. The firmer authority in Russia....

[Dolgopolov] ...Excuse me, do you mean firm internal authority?

[Kozyrev] Yes, precisely that, then we will use even firmer language on the international arena.

[Dolgopolov] Andrey Vladimirovich, about the Americans. Are they conscious of this?

[Kozyrev] Of course they are. You know there is a two-pronged reaction. Anyone has some desire, a natural temptation to establish relations that are as suitable for themselves as possible. They have seen that we are normal people and will not fuel the nuclear threat. And of course the Americans want us to remain normal politicians. But like a poor relation. You are a good guy, so follow us. You used to be bad and did everything in an inhuman way. I must say that there is a grain of truth in this, although not 100 percent. A definite stereotype has developed: Since you are being good, follow us. But we are now saying: Yes, we have become good. But you will have to follow us on these issues. That may be causing them some discomfort in the United States: how, why?

Russia cannot of course, however, give in to euphoria or hysterics. But nor should the Americans think that we as a great power will always follow the United States without fail. Nothing of the sort! There are issues on which, and I do not rule this out, we may follow their lead. But in areas where it is natural they will have to follow Russia's lead. And in some spheres we will act together.

[Dolgopolov] Whom do you personally find it easier to deal with—Christopher or his predecessors?

[Kozyrev] Let's not get onto that.

[Dolgopolov] It strikes me that even the Americans have realized that Russia is not a poor relative, if only because of the diplomatic success in Yugoslavia. Will there be a new flourish following the coming visit to Moscow by two sworn hard-liners—Comrade 'Arafat of the PLO and Mr. Rabin of Israel? Can we hope that the Near East problem will be solved after all?

[Kozyrev] At any rate we do not plan to withdraw from the Near East. You see, we have taken part in this process from the very outset—in conjunction with the Americans, naturally, as co-sponsors....

[Dolgopolov] That's a difficult word.

[Kozyrev] Co-sponsors? We have been like Siamese twins. The States once proposed a new format to us—we agreed to always speak with a single voice. If Russia said something, it meant that the United States would do the same (and vice versa, of course)—that was roughly the understanding. Our American partners started approaching this issue, as it were, in a new way. They began coming up with their own initiatives. Admittedly, they were always aimed in the same direction. But when we asked them several times why these initiatives had not been coordinated with us in some considerable detail, they replied: "Why should we coordinate details on this!"

And let me tell you something frankly. After a couple of answers like that we told them: "OK, since that's your idea of partnership, maybe it suits us too." Then it was "so long, Siamese twins." We are still people pulling the cart in the same direction. We will just each be doing so in our own way. And we too have started speaking with our own voice and taking our own initiatives. We and the United States have common goals—only a peace settlement will do, nothing else. But our steps will be completely independent. We are no longer twins but people doing the same job but by different means.

Recently in Vladivostok I mentioned this bluntly to Christopher: If you want to have very close cooperation anywhere, let's discuss it. In other areas it might indeed not be advisable to speak with a single voice. We can each do it in our own way—and, naturally, head in the same direction. But it should not be the case that the United States has, as it were, free partnership, while Russia has close partnership. If you have the freedom to come up with your own initiatives on a specific issue, then we have exactly the same freedom. Let there be equal opportunities and commitments. If we agree once again to operate somewhere as Siamese twins and if it is in our common interests, then that is possible too.

[Dolgopolov] I really get the feeling that in certain parts of the world our interests are interlinked. Take North Korea—which the Americans claim already has an atom bomb. But isn't the United States being too tough on the Koreans? There's no visible sign of even normal diplomacy. The sons of Kim Il-song have their backs to the wall, and no escape is obvious.

[Excerpts] [Kozyrev] That is why we came up with a new initiative the other day. It has two simple, clear elements which reflect the interests both of us and, I am sure, of all other normal states. The first is to prevent the nonproliferation regime from being undermined.

And the second. It has proved really impossible to solve the problem on a U.S.-DPRK basis alone—there has just been further deterioration and tension. I won't say who is right and who is wrong. But the fact is that this is the situation. So we have proposed convening an international conference to discuss and resolve this problem. The participants would be the states in direct proximity and with real interests. These would be Russia—the events are almost as if they are happening in the near abroad, right in our back yard. China. The United States—for the simple reason that the Koreans are demanding certain decisions from the States. And the two Koreas and Japan.

[Dolgopolov] Andrey Vladimirovich, we ourselves also have plenty of difficult problems in the far, or—as you might interpret it—near abroad. Just take the protracted dispute with Japan over the northern territories. First there are reports that our border guards have been quietly withdrawn. Then the president's press secretary explains that it is not the border guards who are being withdrawn, just obsolete equipment. Hata recently visited Moscow. So just what is going on?

[Kozyrev] A clear-cut formula was reached during Yeltsin's visit to Tokyo—the northern territories issue does exist. Unfortunately, we have inherited an unregulated border from the USSR. The treaty which would fix the border does not exist. It is in both our interest and that of the Japanese to work on this issue. But although this was a stumbling block to the development of any kind of relations for 45 years following the war, this is now no longer the case—as the Hata visit confirmed. Admittedly, nothing revolutionary has happened—and may not happen for a long time to come. It is a highly complex matter. But there is no cause for despair, we must keep on trying. This does not mean that they should make concessions, or that we are obliged to either. We have to work on this for as long as it takes.

[Dolgopolov] Now a word about another visit which strangely became a talking point.

[Kozyrev] You're talking about Nixon's visit?

[Dolgopolov] I know that you did not meet with him, but what happened? How do you view Yeltsin's appearance against the backdrop of the Kremlin wall, where he treated the old ex-president extremely severely? Nixon, who is 81 years old, has definite influence with Republicans in the United States, and it was not just anyone but Democrat Bill Clinton who sent him to our country.

[Kozyrev] I will tell you everything I know about this. I am aware of the external aspects and some of the internal aspects. It is like the theater: The Americans simply have poor producers. The whole scene may have been badly planned. A good, well-known actor appears—Nixon. But the producer makes a major error: The actor appears at quite the wrong moment. He turns up in the wrong play, using his lines in a different dialogue at the wrong moment. The audience laughs. And someone gets angry. The irritation begins. This is what happened to Nixon. This was the first time in all his recent visits that he did not address me, for instance.

[Dolgopolov] Are you friendly with him?

[Kozyrev] Very. It must be said that he was undertaking an interesting mission. He has found his niche. He came here with a similar objective under Gorbachev in 1991. And even then he tracked me down at the Russian Foreign Ministry—in a wretched small building with a collapsing floor. We organized everything normally for him. "Gorbymania" was at its height in the United States. And on his return he decided to say that "Gorbymania" only ruled in the West, while the situation was effectively the reverse in the USSR. And he also told the United States about Yeltsin the real political figure. So neither I nor Boris Nikolayevich have anything but respect for Nixon. He is a major political figure. And visits by people of that level must be organized by professionals. A foreign minister should not have to learn about a former president's visit in the newspapers.

[Dolgopolov] So who did organize it?

[Kozyrev] I do not want to say who did this. The people who did it know who they are. But it was not that they were unprofessional in what they did, but deliberately overturned everything. Absolutely! Everything was topsy-turvy so that the main hero became the main villain. He did not meet Boris Nikolayevich. But the president learned that Nixon had gone to see Rutskoy, Zhirinovskiy, everyone. I cannot understand it, no one has ever behaved like that. Impromptu moves are well prepared for any visit by a politician who is in any way respectable. I hope everyone is aware of this. But impromptu moves for the sake of it are a mistake. Nixon's visit involved a series of political mistakes. I don't think he himself had anything to do with it. I think he was told that the program had been worked out and prepared as always. He does not have to go into every detail. There is a certain apparatus to handle this. But Nixon found himself in a very surprising situation. Imagine: You get up early one morning, go to your bathroom in your robe, clean your teeth, and suddenly there is someone else there, albeit a friend, but someone whom you did not invite. And you say in amazement: "Why couldn't you call me and tell me you were coming? Aren't we good friends?" And Boris Nikolayevich was right to say that he had not been treated as befits the president of Russia.

[Dolgopolov] You mentioned that Nixon met with Zhirinovskiy. And Vladimir Volfovich tried to a certain extent to pass himself off as your colleague—he was dying to head the Duma International Affairs Committee.

[Kozyrev] He's dying to be head of state.

[Dolgopolov] Would you shake his hand?

[Kozyrev] No.

[Dolgopolov] Or acknowledge him?

[Kozyrev] I have no truck with fascists.

[Dolgopolov] What then is your attitude to the Duma's rather surprising amnesty law?

[Kozyrev] To my mind, the decision to release everybody was by no means right.

[Dolgopolov] But a memorandum of accord has already been prepared....

[Kozyrev] ...The talk of a universal accord is abstract. If the concept has something else in mind other than the Constitution—an agreement with the fascists, for instance—I do not understand it and will have no part of it. If it means agreement with the party of war that Rutskoy leads, I will tell you bluntly—Rutskoy means war.

[Dolgopolov] ...Aren't you being a bit hard on the former vice president?

[Kozyrev] ...There is civil, cold, and maybe even hot war in the world. Let me tell you straightaway—if Rutskoy or Zhirinovskiy becomes president, Russia will not survive. I would repeat that I am giving you my personal view. I can see no agreement on this. What would it consist of? Of observing the Constitution? The entire people voted for that. But those who called on Russia to take up the sword should be kept in jail. Until such time as Zhirinovskiy abandons his blatantly fascist slogans and Rutskoy his gamble on, essentially, a rerun of the Yugoslavia situation in Russia, I can have no agreement with them.

[Dolgopolov] One more difficult question before we land, Andrey Vladimirovich.

[Kozyrev] Go ahead. Although it's time to fasten your seat belt.

[Dolgopolov] It's about a problem which for some reason is of concern to almost everyone. Just what is the Foreign Ministry's personnel policy? For instance, who appoints ambassadors—you or the Kremlin? Sometimes when you see people emerge in diplomatic posts you have to wonder: Just what is so-and-so—not a career diplomat but a recycled political figure—going to be doing abroad?

[Kozyrev] There has not been a single appointment that has not been coordinated with me. Sometimes the initiative may come from Boris Nikolayevich. Or somebody else might say—so-and-so's a good man, he'd do well in such-and-such a posting. Yes, there are times when people are suggested. There are times when it is suggested to them. Sometimes they ask themselves. Admittedly they'll later say in public that they weren't asked, that they were virtually forced into it. I know pretty much exactly who asked and who didn't.

[Dolgopolov] But people do ask....

[Kozyrev] Yes, there are non-career diplomats who ask for postings themselves.

[Dolgopolov] I should explain to readers that the word "non-career" means people who previously had no connection with the Foreign Ministry or diplomacy, but who have nonetheless received important postings far from home.

[Kozyrev] That's about the size of it. Now to turn to Boris Nikolayevich's role. He is the president, and under the Constitution he appoints the ambassadors. It is the Foreign Ministry Collegium which decides whom to recommend. But I would reiterate that there has not been a single ambassador posted by Boris Nikolayevich without our consent. We will now be consulting with parliament—with four committees from the two chambers.

[Dolgopolov] My last question. There has now been a certain renewal among the top Foreign Ministry leadership. You have new deputies and even first deputies. Are you not worried that some of them—former ambassador to Spain Igor Ivanov, for instance—may be dealing with problems that are entirely new to them? He has been and still is a Europe specialist, but is now conducting highly difficult talks on the Near East.

[Kozyrev] Are you sure the job should definitely be done by an Arabist? We work on the basis of their experience, advice, and recommendations. But a first deputy minister, who makes policy and conducts talks, should have political experience and very high professional standards. I'm a supporter of teamwork. And I want people to know who works at the Foreign Ministry. There's Vitaliy Ivanovich Churkin—he handles Yugoslavia. I am pleased for his—our—success. I have no inferiority complex at all. Boris Nikolayevich Pastukhov handles Georgia. Ivanov deals with the Near East.... These are all top-notch, experienced people. Each in their own post.

[Dolgopolov] We are landing, Andrey Vladimirovich. You yourself will realize that not everything we have discussed can be included in the interview. This isn't the West—our newspapers are just eight pages long. So—thank you, and we will try to include the most interesting parts of our talk. You yourself said that people should know about those who work at the Foreign Ministry. So now they will.

Baltic Fleet Denies Selling Radioactive Hovercraft

LD0904130894 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0400 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] The press center of the Baltic Fleet has described as completely untrue reports in some of the media that the command of the Baltic Fleet's Tallinn base has illegally sold to local commercial bodies a number of out-of-service hover landing craft containing sources of radioactive radiation.

The fact of the matter is that, after receiving permission from higher authority, the command of Tallinn naval base agreed in February 1993 to hand over two redundant minesweepers for scrapping and subsequent sale to the Estonian (Bankir) company. The terms of the agreement have been observed by both sides. There were no sources of radioactive radiation on the minesweepers. Moreover, ships of the type in question are not designed to carry such installations.

Statement on Chemical Weapons Heard in The Hague

LD1104120394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1131 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] The Hague April 11 ITAR-TASS—The session of the preparatory commission for the establishment of an international organisation in charge of monitoring the ban on chemical weapons heard a statement of the Russian delegate today. The statement stresses that much work has been done since the convention on chemical weapons was opened for signing more than a year ago. The work mainly concentrated on working out and coordinating mechanisms of implementing the convention.

However, according to the Russian view, much has yet to be done to fulfil the mandate of the preparatory commission. Few of the twenty-three tasks set for the commission by the Paris resolution are close to completion, and nearly one half of the total number have not yet been proper considered.

Moreover, the statement says, we are alarmed by the attempts made from time to time in the course of the preparatory commission's work to revise the essence of certain clauses, as well as to enforce interpretations of the text, which was taken for granted at the moment of signing. In particular, this concerns the correlation of the national constitutional norms and the granting of access to chemical installations to inspectors at their request, the uncertainties in the understanding of the key definitions, such as "chemical weapons" and "a facility producing chemical weapons." In addition, Russia, which will have to bear the cost of eliminating and controlling its own stocks of chemical weapons, cannot agree to some of the proposals concerning the distribution of costs among all member-stations.

When signing the text of the convention on January 13, 1933 in Paris, Russia which has a stock of chemical weapons with the total weight of the toxic substances totalling 40,k000 tonnes, was well aware of the scale of the obligations it assumed. However, proceeding from an understanding that the convention is a major step towards global disarmament and the strengthening of international security, and reflects a compromise reached as a result of difficult many-year negotiations, Russia was among the first to sign this international agreement. When signing the convention, Russia stressed that the realisation of the obligations under the convention will be contiguous with a number of economic difficulties. This implied the lessening of Russia's spending on international supervision and verification and elaboration of economically-acceptable procedures of conversion of the former facilities producing chemical weapons to peaceful uses. Russia counted on the possibility of a favourable solution of these problems.

During the parliamentary hearings about the participation of the Russian Federation in international agreements on the elimination of chemical weapons, some committees of the State Duma noted the need for the final clarification of the situation concerning the cost of the realisation of the convention. Questions about Russia's spending, as well as about the vague idea about the final text of the convention and the uniform interpretation of its key terms, the amount of basic obligations which determine the scope of the convention will inevitably arise when the document is submitted for ratification by the Russian Parliament and will in fact predetermine the result of its consideration. Unfortunately, in the past year, the preparatory commission has failed to examine the procedure of payments for the verification activity and the conversion of chemical weapon plants to peaceful production, and no decisions on these matters have been made up to date.

Russia draws everyone's attention to the fact that the enforcement of the convention on chemical weapons in 1995 will be hampered by the failure to solve the above problems as soon as possible. This is necessary to allow the states that signed the convention to obtain a full idea about all aspects of implementing the convention at the stage of its ratification, the statement said.

Agreement on Principles Signed With Colombia

LD0804131694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1240 GMT 8 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Gennadiy Kochuk]

[Text] Moscow April 8 TASS—An agreement on principles of relations between the Russian Federation and Colombia was signed on Friday by the two countries' ministers of foreign affairs Andrey Kozyrev and Nohemi Sanin Posada de Rubio. The signing took place in the Russian Foreign Ministry's mansion in downtown Moscow within the framework of bilateral talks conducted by the Colombian minister in Russia. The agreement which the two ministers signed today is the first document of its kind in relations between Russia and Latin American countries.

The agreement is most important for Russia's global and bilateral relations with the countries of the Latin American continent, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said after the signing. The Colombia minister of foreign affairs for her part stressed the fact that Colombia opens a new page in relations between Russia and Latin American countries. She expressed the hope that her country would soon become a stable partner of Russia's in a variety of sphere, including scientific, technological, cultural and trade cooperation.

Kozyrev on Talks

LD0804211594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1402 GMT 8 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Gennadiy Kochuk]

[Text] Moscow, 8 Apr—Answering questions from journalists, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said he and Colombian Foreign Minister Nohemi Sanin Posada de Rubio discussed the Cuban question during their talks today.

Andrey Kozyrev declared that Russia supports the normalization of relations between countries in global terms, and advocates the development of democratic processes and progressive economic reforms, particularly in Cuba. He pointed out: We consider that the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between Colombia and Cuba will help consolidate democracy and stability on the South American Continent. At the same time, our position is that all relics of the "Cold War" must be eradicated throughout the world. We oppose all manifestations of extremism, which has an ideological basis, and we are in favor of consistent political solutions to existing differences of opinion.

The Colombian minister gave a positive assessment of Russia's position and declared that her country would welcome the Russian Federation to the Nonaligned Movement, where its voice would play an important role in strengthening peace throughout the world and eliminating ideological confrontation.

Russia To Sell Cryogenic Rocket Boosters To India

LD0904133394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1243 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Russia has been meeting its commitments on the supplies of cryogenic rocket boosters to India. The deal, whose terms in line with the Missile Technology Control Regime, MTCR, were made public at the end of last year, has been officially endorsed by the Russian cabinet, a Vice-Chairman of Glavkosmos, Russia's major space research establishment, has said in an interview with Interfax.

In line with new terms, Russia is to deliver at least four cryogenic boosters to India for its SLV-3 rockets. This is twice more than envisaged by the contract signed by Glavkosmos in 1991. Lifted up by a Russian booster, SLV-3 will be able to put loads in orbit about 36,000 kilometers above the earth.

As the General Director of Russia's Space Agency Yuriy Koptev has told Interfax, supplies of ready-made cryogenic blocks are within MTCR, which Russia wished to join by signing a memorandum of intent in Washington on September 2, 1993.

In Koptev's words, two additional blocks will be shipped to India to compensate for Russia's failure to meet the initial commitments, concerning the supply of technologies in bypass of MTCR.

Koptev declared that Russia had kept virtually intact the volume of financing, totalling $300 million, envisaged by the contract. India is to get the first booster next year.

MiG Maintenance Center Planned

LD1104105394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0931 GMT 11 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Kuznetsov]

[Text] New Delhi April 11 TASS—Russia plans to begin before the end of this year the building of a maintenance centre in India to service Soviet and Russian-made airplanes of the MiG series that are being used by the Indian armed forces.

The Indian EXPRESS newspaper reported, citing sources in the Indian Defence Ministry, that the centre will be built jointly by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and the Moscow Aircraft-Producing Association (MAPO) as a pilot project in the country, which will provide services to other countries whose armed forces use the MiG planes, from the MiG-21 to the MiG-29, primarily in Southeast Asia.

Commenting on this report at a request from ITAR-TASS, an informed Russian source in New Delhi, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed that an agreement on the building of a maintenance centre has been signed between HAL and MAPO. The realisation of this agreement will be a subject of negotiations between a high-ranking delegation from the Ministry of the Aircraft Industry of the Russian Federation, which is due to arrive in India in the middle of April, and Indian authorities.

According to the same source, Indian press reports about the interests shown in the construction of the enterprise by the airforces of Malaysia, Vietnam and some Arab countries are premature. According to the source, they are rather interested in developing their own potential in this direction.

Nonetheless, undoubtedly, the idea of creating a maintenance centre marks not only a new step in the development of military-technical cooperation between Moscow and New Delhi, but will reduce the acute shortage of spare parts which the Indian airforce needs badly. The press blames the shortage on Russia which is not quite fair, according to Sergey Anishchenko, the local representative of the Russian state company Rosvooruzheniye (Russian Armaments).

"Despite numerous claims, it is not understandable why the Indian side delays the consideration and signing of contractual documents with Russia," Anishchenko said in an interview with ITAR-TASS. "In some cases the procrastination lasted up to one year. Sometimes when signing contracts our partners unilaterally annul up to 30-40 per cent of their own official bids".

Along with this Sergey Anishchenko expressed the hope that Rosvooruzheniye remains a highly qualified partner capable of solving adequately and promptly all problems in the interests of strengthening the Indian armed forces.

Agreement With Japan To Build Underground Nuclear Plant

LD0804171594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1638 GMT 8 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Moscow April 8—"We have reached a basic agreement on joint construction of an underground nuclear power plant in the Far East with the Japanese side," Russian Minister for Nuclear Power Engineering Viktor Mikhailov told ITAR-TASS here today. In his words, the plant will be built in the area of Komsomolsk-on-Amur. It will be a reactor with a relatively low electric capacity of 200-300 megawatts. The minister said the agreement is estimated at 600-700 million U.S. dollars.

Communist Protesters Picket U.S. Embassy

LD1004100994 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 0930 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Members of the All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks today picketed the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. In the opinion of the pickets, the authorities in the United States, Japan, and South Korea are conducting a provocative policy toward the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The party members believe socialist Korea is sticking in the throats of various reactionary forces in the world, and so all progressive people on the planet should show solidarity with the heroic people of North Korea.

Political Issues

Kostikov Cites Plans To Change Government Policy

MK0904104094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Apr 94 p 1

[Unattributed INTERFAX report in the "In Brief" column: "The Government Policy Will Change"]

[Text] Boris Yeltsin is serious about the mounting criticism of the government's performance and, in coordination with Viktor Chernomyrdin, will apparently introduce some adjustments into the cabinet's activity. This was announced 8 April by presidential press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov. In particular, according to him, adjustments are possible in the sphere of tax and customs policy. Mr. Kostikov stressed that the president and the prime minister have a good relationship and bear "no grudge against each other."

Opposition Group Issues Demands on Civic Accord

LD0804223594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1551 GMT 8 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ekaterina Zhilyakova]

[Text] Moscow April 8—Representatives from Russia's radical opposition are hardly likely to put their signatures to Yeltin's memorandum on Civic Accord.

The executive committee of the "TRUDOVAYA ROSSIYA" (LABOR RUSSIA) movement told ITAR-TASS that it recently adopted its own version of the agreement on accord in Russia. The movement is ready to sign the memorandum only if it accomodates their demands. Among those demands are: to immediately and unconditionally halt the "course on the restoration of capitalism in Russia, to restore the power of the Soviets everywhere, to immediately and unconditionally freeze and then lower prices on the main food products, to outlaw and prosecute speculating, and to restore the buying power of bank deposits as of the 1 January 1990 status."

Georgy Gusev, the executive secretary of the "Civil Accord" committee, which was formed about three years ago, thinks the idea of an agreement on civil accord in Russia is good, however all the sides will hardly be able to reach a consensus on concrete points of the agreement. Overall, he said, the work on the draft agreement reminds one of the work on the 1991 union treaty and, therefore, may share the treaty's sad fate. The signing of the union treaty was prevented by the 1991 August attempted coup, then the agreement simply fell behind events.

Zhirinovskiy 'Beat Up' Duma Deputy Borzyuk

LD0804163094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1507 GMT 8 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[Text] Moscow April 8 TASS—Russian nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy on Friday created another scandal in the Russian State Duma. During a coffee-break he beat up lawmaker Vladimir Borzyuk who, earlier this week, had quit Zhirinovskiy's faction in protest against his extremist policies.

Alla Gerber of Russia's Choice told TASS she saw "Zhirinovskiy striking Borzyuk's head against the wall." Then, according to the eyewitness, Vladimir Volfovich turned his anger against a passing journalist, seized his tape-recorder and broke the journalist's glasses.

The Russia's Choice faction proposed to set up a special commission to investigate the incident, but the Duma turned the proposal down, saying the case was within the competence of the Duma's procedural committee.

Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin told reporters he would file public prosecutor a report on the incident by Zhirinovskiy's victim, journalist Andrey Pyatkovskiy of the "STOLITSA" magazine.

Investigation Commenced

LD0804215994 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1500 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Report by Aleksey Venediktov from the State Duma—recorded]

[Text] [Aleksey Venediktov] At the suggestion of the Russia's Choice faction, the evening session of the State Duma returned to the incident between Vladimir Zhirinovskiy and Deputies Vladimir Borzyuk and Valeriy Borshchev. The State Duma received a statement signed by STOLITSA magazine journalist Aleksey Pyatkovskiy, whose dictophone and glasses were broken and trampled upon by Zhirinovskiy. State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin instructed the committee on the internal organization of the Duma to investigate the incident. Rybkin stressed that he would personally hand over the journalist's statement to the bodies of the democratic state which is being formed together with the State Duma.

[Announcer] When asked by our correspondent where the Chairman of the State Duma would send the assaulted journalist's statement, the State Duma chairman said:

[Rybkin] I will definitely—it is my duty—pass the paper from your colleague Pyatkovskiy to the procurator general.

Zhirinovskiy Appoints 3 Deputies To LDPR Council

LD0804195394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1905 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] In compliance with the amendments of the Liberal Democratic Party's Charter, adopted at the party's Fifth Congress, its leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy appointed his three deputies. They are State Duma Deputies Sergey Abeltsev, Aleksandr Vengerovsky, and Stanislav Zhebrovsky. With Zhirinovskiy they make up the party's Superior Council. This was reported by the LDPR press service.

Presidential Public Chamber: Russia Needs Civic Accord

LD0904171894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1647 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow April 9 ITAR-TASS—"Russia needs Civic Accord. Political confrontation has been exhausting. Constructive cooperation for the sake of Russian revival is the best way out. None but we will settle our problems. We should be wise enough to accept and understand each other," says a statement of the Russian president's public chamber circulated here today.

"Acknowledging our responsibility for the future of our motherland and considering its interests to be superior to class, corporative, party and group interests, we, representatives of political, trade union, women's, veterans', youth and other public organizations, who have diverse political outlook and social interests, voice our support to the initiatives of citizens, public associations, political parties, the Russian president and the State Duma on the achievement of Civic Accord in Russia," says the document.

Members of the public chamber called for the maximum broad use of conciliatory mechanisms in solution of political, social and economic issues. They offered the working group for preparation of the draft agreement on Civic Accord in Russia to take into account proposals voiced during the draft discussion at the public chamber.

Shakray Pushes For Civic Peace Accord

LD0904122794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1213 GMT 9 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow April 9 (TASS)—"The accord on civic peace and concord" should be promulgated into law by the State Duma, approved as such by a Federation Council and finally signed by the president," Russian Vice Premier and PRES [Party Russian Unity and Accord] Leader Sergey Shakhray said at a meeting of the public chamber under the president in the Kremlin today.

The accord will then facilitate the achievement of peace and concord in society and provide for a political respite which can be used to implement economic reforms.

Shakhray called on all leaders of political parties willing to sign the accord to join in finalizing the draft so as to avoid any misunderstanding. Some State Duma deputies have complained that they had taken no part in working out the draft accord. Shakhray also called for the signing of the accord as soon as possible. "We have already has a war of laws, then a war of sovereignties and we must no longer permit yet another war to break out—a war of agreements on peace," he said.

Burbulis Welcomes 'New Political Reality'

LD1104161094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1337 GMT 11 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow April 11—A new situation is forming in Russia after the December elections. A new professional and social base takes shape. Gennady Burbulis, member of the State Duma, president of the Humanitarian and Political Sciences Centre "Strategia" (strategy), said in an interview to ITAR-TASS.

He said that the new political reality is "the part of the pragmatically-minded population that for various reasons kept from engaging in active politics, but on whose specific activity the stability, meaningfulness and constructiveness of all undertakings in Russia will depend in future."

Regarding his quitting Russia's Choice faction, Burbulis said: "I have not as much quitted Russia's Choice as I meet halfway the new reality. I objects to its being overlooked."

Burbulis believes there is no need to cling to slogans and ideological values that have been used for three years now. "The activity of Russia's choice is quite justifiable, but it risks to go into a dead alley unless the changed situation is taken into notice," he said.

Burbulis regards as a new political force, first of all, the December 12th group in the duma. He said there are also quite a few deputies in other factions upholding the same positions.

Regarding his political career, Burbulis said he is not going to become a leader of the new political force. "I shall be pressing for its recognition and unification on a constructive basis and I shall be promoting the emergence of new leaders," he said.

Conditions for Yeltsin Reelection

LD0904121994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1200 GMT 9 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow April 9 TASS— "Yeltsin's candidature for presidency in the next elections is quite possible, given a few conditions," president of the humanitarian and political science centre "Strategy" Gennadiy Burbulis told journalists in the Kremlin today.

He pointed out three conditions for Yeltsin's success in the race, which, judging by all appearances, has already begun in Russia. "Yeltsin must realize the new political style and appear to the people not only as the leader of reforms but also as the person capable of reunifying the nations in the remaining 18 months. He will also need a reliable political and civic structure on which to rely for support and which he does not have now. He must run as a man acting on instructions from such a civic and political structure which can propel him to the post. Thirdly, society needs to know clearly who make up the presidential team, who are his comrades in arms and who are his possible successors.

If these three conditions materialize "I will back Yeltsin proceeding from the fact that the president is now one of the main guarantors of stability in society," Burbulis said.

He also pointed out that the accord on civic peace is not a lull between the branches of power but an expression of society's urgent need for stability. Burbulis called on all political parties to defend their positions within the frame of law.

Shumeyko on Army Needs, Political Stability

PM1104124594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Apr 94 pp 1,2

[Interview with V.F. Shumeyko, chairman of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council, by Petr Karapetyan; place and date not given: "The Army Must Have All It Needs—and as a Matter of Priority"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Karapetyan] Vladimir Filippovich, I would like to ask the following question: Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov is constructing a 100-apartment block in Sevastopol for Russian seamen. In turn, you said during a trip to Kaliningrad Oblast that the Federation Council would act as sponsor of the destroyer Nastoychivyy and the naval garrison in Baltiysk. Sponsorship assistance for the Army is a long-standing, essential Russian tradition. Absolutely no doubt about that. But it is no substitute for a clear-cut, thoroughly thought-out state program for the Army. Do you sense the need for one?

[Shumeyko] Of course. State social policy in Russia in general, and in relation to the Army in particular, is based on a plethora of uncoordinated legislative acts, working directly or indirectly, so to speak, to provide social security. This is clearly not enough. We need a social code, and I talked about this with the president. Boris Nikolayevich suggested that consideration be given to creating it. We in the Federation Council are now preparing proposals that are basically aimed at protecting those strata of the population which are dependent on the budget. And I will insist on a separate chapter in the code on state social policy in the Army. After all, it must be clearly recognized that the Army is a state institution, so who is going to look after it if not the state? I am firmly of the opinion that the military must always be socially provided for and as a matter of priority. Incidentally, the Federation Council is 67 percent representatives of regional authorities. And, believe me, their approach to this question is statesmanlike.

[Karapetyan] Now you say that the Army must have everything it needs. It would be difficult to find in Russia a statesman who would not endorse what you say. But when it comes to practical action, the left hand forgets what the right hand was doing. In the corridors of power there is constant talk to the effect that it would not be a bad idea to strip the military of their privileges. In my opinion, this is no big deal. What privileges are we talking about, anyway! The need for a state program to construct housing for servicemen is being called into question; they are trying to save energy resources at our expense.... Yet the Russian military earn their daily bread in Sarajevo, Tajikistan, the Dniester Region, South Ossetia, and the Ossetian-Ingush conflict zone, as well as in the quiet provinces and the capital. Permanent danger and hardship. Indeed, the Russian Army deserves to be treated differently by the state.

[Shumeyko] The state cannot exist without the Army and I believe it is a waste of time to debate the subject. So I will try to set out my own viewpoint as briefly as possible. Of course, the Army's interests will have to be taken into account when the state budget is discussed and approved, and it goes without saying that one should be guided by the principle of defensive sufficiency, rather than the residual principle. There are 10 committees in the Federation Council working on the budget, including the Defense and Security Committee. Obviously any committee is going to assert its own positions, but we will not allow the Army's interests to be undermined. Although I will allow a serious debate. The Army must be fully provided with budget money and the policy in this case must be a rigorous one.

[Karapetyan] There is something else the Army desperately needs, as well as a budget. I am talking about political stability in Russia. But society is in turmoil again. This time as a result of rumors about a plot, about a new coup...

[Shumeyko] All this I regard as an attempt to rock the boat. As for the situation in the country, it seems to me more stable than last year. Efforts to destabilize the situation through rumors and provocations were fine once, so to speak. But they will not work today.

[Karapetyan] Nonetheless, Vladimir Filippovich, the political background to the economic reforms remains rather complex. Take, for instance, the results of the local elections. Is the nomenklatura on its way back?

[Shumeyko] Since you have broached the subject of elections, I will say that they were marked by a low level of political activity by voters and a high level of activity by politicians. Take St. Petersburg, for instance. There were 750 candidates for 50 deputies' seats there. That is a very large number. The elections were "prolonged," of course, by country dwellers. In the cities people are tired of democracy, I would say. Democracy means elections all the time. People do not see results, so they do not go to cast their votes, they become less politically active. In St. Petersburg again the organizers of one particular rally were expecting to attract 15,000 people. Some 22 people turned up in the square. As for the return of the nomenklatura, I must welcome it, in the sense that the people returning are experienced people, people who know what they are at.

[Karapetyan] But what influence will they have on the conduct of the reforms?

[Shumeyko] Local self-government implements laws adopted at the top. A simple formula and, you will agree, a pretty reliable one—it guarantees that reform remains a factor in Russia's development.

[Karapetyan] But the problem of accord in Russian society is there nonetheless. By all accounts, work is almost completed on the agreement "On Achieving Civil Accord." How do you see this?

[Shumeyko] I am familiar with the text. If we carry on refining it, it will never be signed. There is a principle: "Excellent is the enemy of good." As it stands, it is a well-tuned document and I see no reason why it should not be adopted.

[Karapetyan] Vladimir Filippovich, you recently said you support the idea of reestablishing the USSR, although not in its previous form. President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan talked about creating a Eurasian Union comprising CIS states. Does this not indicate the possibility of creating a Commonwealth or Union on the basis of confederative principles on the territory of the former USSR?

[Shumeyko] My vision is of the reestablishment of an integrated commonwealth of states, rather than the reestablishment of the USSR in its pre-perestroyka form. We do not want rigid borders, we must try to meet one another halfway. We should be airing this idea right now. I would not describe the CIS as the optimal form of a commonwealth. Something of the order of 400 decisions have been adopted in its context and barely one-fourth has been implemented. The states choose which they will sign and which they will not. That is not the way to go about it. We have to get together in a union, and I am not frightened of the word. Two or three states for a start, say. The rest are then bound to follow.

[Karapetyan] In the event of integration, what picture do you have of the commonwealth's armed forces?

[Shumeyko] Even now we could be preparing the ground for the creation of unified armed forces. But we must at least begin by instituting a council of the commonwealth countries' defense ministers. So Russia is compelled to keep 15,000 people on the territories of sovereign states, including the trouble spots. It is difficult, it is not good.

Northern Fleet Sailor Kills 4, Takes Hostages

LD0904074494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0630 GMT 9 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Belousov]

[Text] Murmansk, 9 Apr—An ITAR-TASS correspondent has just been informed at the Northern Fleet's press center about an incident that is terrible in terms of its cruelty and pointlessness. A serviceman who is serving in a military counter-intelligence subunit of the Federal Counterintelligence Service, killed four Northern Fleet sailors and wounded three last night. The criminal has taken four crew members of a vessel hostage and is now on board the vessel. Representatives of the Fleet's command and of the Federal Counter-Intelligence Service are negotiating with him.

Further Details of 'Emergency'

LD0904092394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0740 GMT 9 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Belousov]

[Text] Murmansk, 9 Apr—The ITAR-TASS correspondent has managed to find out the details of the emergency which occurred early this morning at one of the military cantonments of the Northern Fleet.

Press center workers and fleet staff officers said that armed sailor Dmitriy Pulkin, who is serving under contract in a counterintelligence sub-unit of the Federal Counterintelligence Service, killed four people and injured three sailors. At 0355 hours he switched off the signaling in the armory room and stole two submachineguns with six full drum magazines and five pistols. Then he went down into the quarters of the duty officer for a large unit of submarines and shot him with the submachinegun. Next, he entered the quarters where the submariners were resting and opened fire on them. One sailor was killed and two were wounded. Seizing the unit commander's driver, the criminal forced him to take the wheel. The latter managed to get away for a few minutes into the barracks where he reported the emergency to the duty officer of the naval headquarters. Realizing his mistake, the criminal himself took the wheel and set off for the military town. However, by that time, the road was blocked by two fire engines, and Captain Dudakov of the counterintelligence services drove towards him. He tried to detain the criminal who opened fire with a submachine gun and killed both the officer and his driver.

Breaking away from his pursuers, Pulkin reached a torpedo retriever boat on which a seaman from his own district of Pereslavl-Zalesskiy was serving. The criminal shot him dead and took the other four members of the crew hostage. All Pulkin is demanding from the representatives of the naval command and the counterintelligence services, who are talking to him about his surrender, is vodka and cigarettes.

Sailor Captured; Hostages Released

LD0904135994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1343 GMT 9 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Murmansk April 9 (TASS)—Sailor Dmitriy Pulkin, who took hostage four servicemen and found shelter on board a small cutter after killing four and wounding three people last night, has been detained by a counter-intelligence officer and two members of a special interior unit.

Before the detention Pulkin demanded that representatives of the Russian Federal Counter-intelligence Service and the Northern Fleet give him spirits and cigarettes. The demand was satisfied. A hostage made use of Pulkin's intoxication and seized his automatic rifle. The counter-intelligence officer and the policemen disarmed Pulkin and brought him to the investigation ward. The incident is being investigated. The content of Pulkin's note left at his working place has not been made public.

Although the crime was committed on the territory of a Northern Fleet naval base, it has nothing to do with the fleet, since the unit Pulkin was in belongs to the Russian Federal Counter- Intelligence Service. Pulkin, 21, was a contractual servicemen of a military counter-intelligence unit stationed in the settlement of Vidyayevo, the Murmansk region, from December 28, 1991, through April 1, 1994.

Grenade Incident at Moscow Subway Station; 13 Hurt

LD1004120394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1149 GMT 10 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow April 10 TASS—Thirteen people, four of them chance passers-by, were injured in a grenade blast near Profsoyuznaya metro station at 22.20 here on Saturday. Nine people were hospitalised. An F-1 grenade was hurled from a dark-coloured Mercedes car without plate numbers in the direction of a group of Caucasians who stood near kiosks run by the Raketa Limited Partnership, a spokesman in Moscow's South Western District prefecture, told ITAR-TASS.

Bragin of Ostankino Appointed Deputy Culture Minister

LD0804175094 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] We have learned that Russian Culture Minister Yevgeniy Sidorov has acquired a new deputy. Vyacheslav Bragin began his new duties on 6 April. Thus, the former chairman of Ostankino TV and radio company has been farmed out to culture. Maybe culture will be luckier than Ostankino.

IZVESTIYA: No Wish To Cast Suspicion on ITAR-TASS

PM1104141394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Apr 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "A Few Words to Our ITAR-TASS Colleagues"]

[Text] The commentary "Dangerous Fishing in Black Sea of Disinformation Threatens To Aggravate Russian-Ukrainian Relations," published in IZVESTIYA 7 April, elicited a pointed reaction from our ITAR-TASS colleagues—a reaction which, in general, is understandable. The point is that the article, which speaks of the danger of an information war, contains a reference to a report by the agency's correspondent on Ukrainian Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy's flight to Crimea. The correspondent referred to information received at the Black Sea Staff. The information had not been confirmed, which fact ITAR-TASS at once reported, but the agency tape did not reach our observer's desk. It did not have time to. This is why, in denying the information on the Ukrainian defense minister's trip, he cites not ITAR-TASS but reports by our correspondent in Crimea and other sources.

We know that ITAR-TASS staffers work to a rigid real-time regime. Information which is received is passed on instantly. The editorial office really did not wish to cast even a shadow of suspicion on the agency, whose materials it readily uses.

Even without us there are enough people ready and willing to shift onto journalists the responsibility for inaccurate information received from trustworthy sources. For example, a "technical error" gets through in an official report, and they call journalists to account, although it was prepared by politicians. Meanwhile the agency was merely fulfilling one of its important functions—that of acting as middle-man between the public and the organs of power.

Economic Issues

Chubays on Privatization, Economic Reform

PM1104114294 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 29 Mar 94 p3

[Interview with Anatoliy Chubays by Sergey Razin; date and place not given: "The Voucher Has Served Its Purpose and May Go"]

[Text] There are less than 100 days to go before voucher privatization comes to an end. Feelings are running high. The State Duma intends to hold a hearing on this key problem in the near future. Will the State Committee for the Management of State Property be able to defend its approach to distributing state property?

[Razin] For many, the public conflict between Chubays and Luzhkov has been like a bolt from the blue, in my opinion. Do you accept that it could just be a personality clash?

[Chubays] Initially, I too thought that the experienced economist was irritated by the vigorous actions of the "Chicago boys in pink trousers." But that illusion was soon shattered.

By attempting to torpedo the voucher, Luzhkov wants to place the sale of shares under bureaucrats' control and make it so expensive that, in the end, privatization will drag on for decades—to the satisfaction of all who cherish the hope of returning Russia to the era of "developed socialism."

[Razin] Are you not being too harsh in your judgments?

[Chubays] Why is it then that major investment funds like "Alfa-Kapital" have invested only 3 percent of their resources in the privatization of Moscow enterprises?

The reason is simple: Privatization in Moscow and a number of regions is being blocked by local authorities. Unfortunately, while he does not have the power to abolish vouchers, Luzhkov is in a position to slow down the process. But the State Committee for the Management of State Property has sufficient levers to enable Muscovites to invest their checks in the capital's most promising ventures. I think the State Committee's plans will get massive support from below....

[Razin] In my opinion, the voucher's main purpose is not to effect nationwide privatization, but to create the conditions whereby the state sector can be transferred to commercial structures' private ownership as quickly as possible....

[Chubays] All world experience shows that no more than 10-15 percent of the population may become efficient owners. Where are we to find these enterprising people capable of transforming loss-making plants into profitable firms? There is only one way to solve this problem: Through natural selection. Consequently, at the start of the voucher marathon we deliberately placed everyone on equal terms, without dividing them into partocrats and democrats, conservatives and reformers. Everyone was given a voucher and told: Do with it what you will! Sell it, rip it up, buy another 100 or 1,000, get interested in macroeconomics and investments.... It very soon became clear that the vouchers were being amassed by people who can and want to work with them. We estimate that the desired 10-15 percent of efficient owners have been found. They will probably include former Union ministers, directors of state enterprises, and young entrepreneurs, who head more than 600 check investment funds, incidentally. Of course, not all these funds will be able to stand up to the competition: Some of them may go bankrupt. But, as a whole, it is quite clear that a market mechanism, which will absorb financial resources and pump investments into industry, has been created in Russia in just 12-18 months.

[Razin] But where are these fabulous investments going to come from? There is no sign of them at present....

[Chubays] You should look more closely. The Volga Motor Vehicle Plant hit upon the idea of collecting colossal amounts of money to fund the AVVA project. This is one version of the breakthrough: Citizens' savings are drawn into industry via the mechanism of expanding joint-stock companies' authorized capital. Another, no less well-known example is "Olbi-Diplomat." These are intelligent people who basically collect billions of rubles for television advertizing alone—money which, if it were not invested in the economy, would simply lie idle. These two examples point to a chain reaction of even more attractive projects, including some which involve Western capital. Hundreds of investment funds and thousands of joint-stock industrial enterprises are destined to engage in this kind of business; even now, they are finding mutual benefit in cooperation at check auctions.

[Razin] But check auctions will "die" with the voucher on 1 July, which is less than 100 days away....

[Chubays] Check auctions will be succeeded by money auctions, which will allow enterprises to attract even more investments for their development by means of selling shares.

[Razin] Is it not the case that the mafia will simply buy up the most profitable enterprises with its easy money?

[Chubays] On completion of check privatization, enterprises' fixed capital will have a much higher value. It goes without saying that labor collectives which are dragging their heels over selling shares risk losing many of the current benefits and waking up one morning to a new owner in the shape of a commercial bank or fund.

[Razin] Is that why giants like "Gazprom" and a number of leading petroleum extraction companies have started rushing into check auctions?

[Chubays] Whatever, it is certainly no accident that "Gazprom" has collected several million vouchers from all over the country to take part in its own auction. After 1 July, shares which can now be bought with these checks will be 10 times more expensive....

[Razin] Suppose voucher privatization ends successfully in 100 days time. Will all its pluses not be concealed by financial-industrial groups, which officials of all colors have suddenly begun to discuss? Is this venture not a trick to keep bankrupt enterprises afloat?

[Chubays] I am skeptical of attempts to unite quite different enterprises on orders from above. Economic councils like these will collapse under pressure from internal conflicts. But this idea could forge a path for itself if shareholders from various sectors and commercial structures want to combine their efforts to stabilize financial and industrial ties. I think we will hear of such examples quite soon.

[Razin] I would very much like to share your optimism. But I am not convinced by predictions or promises, only by hard facts. The voucher privatization stage has been completed in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. What is the situation there with investments in industry?

[Chubays] The Czech economics minister told me during a recent meeting that the Czech Republic has been flooded with so many investments—both from within the country and from abroad—that the government no longer knows what to do with them. The total capital exceeds all conceivable limits. The population is also convinced of the success of voucher privatization, as the dividends from investing coupons (the Czech equivalent of our vouchers) amount to more than three or four months' wages, and wages in the Czech Republic are comparable to those received in the West. I am convinced that the Czech Republic had the highest industrial growth rate of all the European countries last year.

Admittedly, this success was made possible not only by optimum privatization, but also by financial stabilization. They are two sides of the same coin. In conjunction, these two factors have an astounding effect.

[Razin] Will we soon see something similar in Russia?

[Chubays] The Czechs began their reforms 18-24 months earlier than us. So Russia still has everything ahead.... Recently the prime minister publicly lambasted some heads of laboratory who allegedly confused Russia with a racing car: They drove it around for a while and then abandoned it. Something similar can be seen in readers' letters: Surely Gaydar has not abandoned the reforms? Gaydar has been criticized with unconcealed hatred on all sides. But many people treat him with understanding, because he was not cunning and took all the flak. However hard life may be for Russians, in the past two years the reforms have reached the "point of no return" and become irreversible. You must agree that it is nevertheless better to live in Russia at present than in Ukraine, say, where they have tried to boost the economy with "other, nonmonetarist methods"....

Gaydar resigned because he did not like playing the role of whipping boy in the government. But he did not abandon the reforms when he resigned: He has remained in politics. Our main task now is to complete privatization and create a broad class of owners: The middle class that will serve as a firm social foundation for the economic reforms. Only on this basis will it be possible to form a strong political party capable of shaking the Russian economy out of its comatose state. Strictly speaking, with no real support from below, even under the president's wing it will be impossible to contain lobbyist storms for long....

[Razin] Do you not think that the reformers have gone too far with their tough financial policy? Is this not the reason why you recently had to be appointed vice premier over the prime minister's head? The president has had to show his fist in order to defend check privatization....

[Chubays] I do not agree that the presidential edict on my appointment was signed over the prime minister's head. This document was drawn up with Chernomyrdin's consent. It just happens that my appointment was passed separately from the general list....

[Razin] It looks as if Yeltsin has thereby made it clear to anyone interested that voucher privatization will be taken to its logical conclusion.

[Chubays] That was probably the intention.

[Razin] Sorry, but are you sure you will be able to complete voucher privatization? You are rather out on a limb in the present government, and it is strongly rumored in the State Duma that you will soon be removed altogether....

[Chubays] A year or 18 months ago, I found these questions difficult. Virtually every day began with the feeling that I only had a week left. Breaking through the redoubts of the old parliament was like crossing a minefield.

The situation has now fundamentally changed. Even fierce opponents of check privatization—such as Luzhkov, for example—blame the State Committee for the Management of State Property for the fact that directors have become our allies. This is absolutely true. First, we have made the process of selling shares extremely simple by removing the armada of officials. Second, we have given state enterprises the chance to use their vouchers to buy a major shareholding without being robbed by a revaluation of their fixed capital.

That is why Luzhkov's version has not been adopted. The Moscow mayor has tried to increase the cost of state enterprises hundreds of times over, abolish check auctions, and hold only money auctions in their place. If this were to happen, Luzhkov would have some serious explaining to do with workers at the Likhachev Plant, the Volga Motor Vehicle Plant, and thousands of other enterprises: They would want to know why shares had become 400 times more expensive and why they could no longer be bought with vouchers, but only with cash—of which there is not enough even to pay wages. I would like to see the results of these talks....

Of course, opposition to privatization is still very strong. But centers of sabotage now only remain in the corridors of power: The voucher is opposed by the former party-economic nomenklatura, big lobbies of officials, and a number of political parties which act as a mouthpiece for their interests. Some will lose a very great deal from the real redistribution of property in favor of economic efficiency.

But it is no longer officials who call the shots: It is the person with the voucher. Try and take it away from him, and you will be in real trouble! When the affair with the "Tekhnicheskiy Progress" Joint-Stock Company came to light, its shareholders became a seething mob prepared to sweep aside anyone in their path.

That is why I am convinced that no forces or shady structures now have the power to stop the process of privatization....

Gerashchenko: Interest Rates Will Be Reduced

PM1104101394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Apr 94 First Edition p 2

[Report by Vladimir Kucherenko: "Central Bank Prepared To Reduce Rates for Centralized Credits"]

[Text] Central Bank Chairman V. Gerashchenko has made a sensational statement in the State Duma to the effect that in the very near future he will reduce commercial banks' credit rates.

The exact figure is not yet known and the Central Bank of Russia is not interested in making it public, to avoid destabilizing the interbank credit market. But experts are citing a figure between 180 and 200 percent per annum by the end of April. Let us recall that the present rate is 210 percent

According to Gerashchenko this is being done because inflation rates have declined considerably. And if the government keeps its word and brings its average monthly rates down to 7-9 percent by the end of the year then the Central Bank will correspondingly lower the bank rate to 110-120 percent per annum.

We have found out from competent sources in the Central Bank of Russia that this has been talked about for a long time. But there is a long way from talk to implementing that intention. It will all depend on how far the cabinet of ministers succeeds in keeping the budget deficit within the calculated limits and also on whether the government approves the monetary and credit policy concept sent to it by the Central Bank. Its thrust, according to V. Smenkovskiy, chief of the Central Bank research and information department, is that the Bank of Russia has set limits and volumes for the credits granted, which must be sent to specific enterprises and for specific projects. But which projects these will be is to be determined by the government program of "targeted" support for industry.

It is entirely possible that the Central Bank of Russia's decision to embark on reducing the base rate was influenced by the results of auctions to which centralized credits were submitted. The feeble activity of the banks at the auctions showed that loans have become excessively expensive and the market has been saturated and the time has come to reduce the cost of money, so to speak.

Finance Minister Against Indexing Wages

PM1104140994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Apr 94 p 1

[INTERFAX report: "Finance Ministry Opposed to Indexation in Budget-Financed Sphere"]

[Text] The Finance Ministry does not deem it advisable to index the earnings of personnel in the budget-financed sphere during the second quarter of this year.

Acting Russian Finance Minister Sergey Dubinin disclosed this at a meeting with journalists. He explained that indexation of the earnings of workers in this category during the first quarter was 90 percent while the level of inflation over this period was 36 percent. "What happened was over-indexation." Moreover, according to Dubinin, the 2 trillion rubles for indexation during the second quarter have already been allocated in order to satisfy the coal miners' economic demands within the budget framework. "Any victories by strikers with regard to meeting their demands mean somebody else loses out," S. Dubinin stressed.

Military, Space & Nuclear Issues

Defense Ministry Denies Air Defense Troops Disbanding

LD0804215594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1325 GMT 8 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[Text] Moscow, 8 Apr—The Air Defense Troops will continue to fulfill the tasks before them, remaining an arm of Russia's Armed Forces, a spokesmen at the Russian Ministry of Defense told the ITAR-TASS correspondent, denying press reports about the disbanding of the Air Defense Troops.

It emerges from the explanation that structural reorganization is nearing completion in the Air Defense Troops. The number of personnel has been cut here, as in other arms of the Russian Armed Forces.

Commander Outlines Troops' Problems

LD1004115494

[Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian at 0600 GMT on 10 April broadcasts in its "Test Range" program a two-minute report, entitled "Who will defend the skies?," on the financial problems facing Russia's air defense forces. The video shows a series of shots of radar equipment and SAM missiles. An announcer says that the air defense troops now receive only 30 percent of the fuels and lubricants they require, with the result that fighter pilots spend only 25 to 40 hours in the air instead of the recommended 150. Air crews get to fire training missiles once every two years. Officers and warrant officers regularly experienced delays with their pay. There are also rumors that the troops are to be disbanded.

The report includes an interview with Commander in Chief V.A. Prudnikov by an unidentified correspondent. Prudnikov says: "Yes, we really are being reduced in size. We are being reformed, but the process has been well thought out. We are removing hardware equipped with obsolete equipment and weapons, but retaining the most recent technology, the antiaircraft missile troops, the 300 complexes [as heard], our Air Force, the MiG-31 and Su-27, and our latest radar systems. And, you are also aware that the space missile defense troops have been attached to the air defense troops. We are trying to perform the basic tasks assigned to us and carry out reforms in order to maintain quality."

Nuclear Subs To Discharge Waste in Sea of Japan

LD0804144994 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] [Oleg Padenko] The fact that yet another nuclear submarine is being dismantled at the Zvezda Works was immediately known in the Maritime Kray. After all, the question immediately arose as to what to do with the water from the submarine, polluted with radiation, since the notorious TNT-5 tanker, like others, is full to overflowing with life-threatening waste. This is in the center of the Bolshoy Kamen town, quite near to Vladivostok. Nor is there any protection against the impending disaster. Local projects to treat the waste are unrealistic and the Japanese assistance is hanging in the air.

It is precisely for this reason that the interdepartmental commission working at the Zvezda Works made a sensational decision on the necessity to discharge the liquid radioactive waste into the Sea of Japan, as was done before, because nothing else can be done. Ahead is the dismantling of a further number of nuclear submarines, more than 40.

Non-Piloted Space Programs Face Cuts

LD0804212294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1928 GMT 8 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Veronika Romanenkova and Vladimir Rogachev]

[Text] Moscow April 8—Russian non-piloted spacecraft programs will be cut due to scarce finances, deputy general director of the Russian Space Agency Yuri Milov told ITAR-TASS here today.

Only three-four projects in each area will be supported from amongst the current 22 communications satellite projects and ten proposals on space distant earth probing systems. The Almaz interesting and costly project is in question, as its financing would mean termination of other earth probing programs. The mars program can hardly be financed as well. At the same time, the space agency does not give up promising research and development.

As for non-state financing sources, Russian commercial structures do not want to invest in works to bring benefits in a few years. Several commercial projects of communications satellites are all Russia now has.

The world space market is not eager to welcome Russia, despite the fact it has a unique set of reliable rocket-boosters, including proton, which are able to put a satellite on any orbit even the most exotic, said Milov. The space agency is open to international cooperation. It has three contracts to launch foreign satellites with Russian rocket-boosters, Russian satellites are equipped with foreign machinery, exchange of satellite information is underway, flights of foreign cosmonauts on board the Mir station are profitable, same as the lease of satellite channels by foreign clients.

Regional Affairs

Chechen Leader Not To Reject Talks With Moscow

LD0804132594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1204 GMT 8 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Schegoleva]

[Text] Sochi April 8 TASS—President Dzhokhar Dudayev of the rebel Russian Republic of Chechnya said on Friday he will not reject a Moscow offer to find a political solution to the crisis in relation between Russia and Chechnya which had proclaimed sovereignty.

"We have never turned down meetings with the Russian leadership, political solutions", he told reporters while visiting a fair in Sochi on the Black Sea.

He added that he had arrived to Sochi because of purely economic interests and stressed that his republic is and will be buying grain and foodstuffs from southern Russian regions. Dudayev said it is necessary to resume joint use of the oil pipeline from Chechnya and restore the normal work of railways.

Chechnya Asks World To Denounce Russian Leadership

LD0804191494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1719 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Chechnya has appealed to all countries to denounce the actions by the Russian leadership aimed, as it believes, at destabilizing the political situation in the Chechen Republic. The statement by the Chechen Foreign Ministry spread in Groznyy on Friday describes as a flagrant interference into the affairs of an independent state the Russian Federal Assembly's decision "On the Political Settlement of Relations between the Federal Bodies of Power and the authorities in the Chechen Republic."

The decision envisages the holding of free elections to the top power bodies of the Chechen Republic as a condition for the continuation of the talks aimed at signing a Russian-Chechen Treaty.

The actions of different power bodies of the Russian Federation point to a new stage in aggravating the situation around the Chechen Republic, says the statement. It expresses readiness to continue the talks aimed at settling the relations with Russia on a civilized basis and in accordance with the principles of international law.

Dudayev Associate Wounded in Gang Warfare

LD1104104994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0833 GMT 11 Apr 94

[By CRIME-PRESS correspondent Vladimir Dmitriyev for TASS]

[Text] Moscow April 11 TASS—An aide of Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev was wounded in a gangland shootout and placed into the central hospital in Groznyy, CRIME-PRESS learned on Monday from Chechen opposition members from the Nadterek region of the southern republic who are currently staying in Moscow.

The sources added that R. Labazanov, who is Dudayev's aide on most important issues and a close friend of the rebel president, is being guarded by over 200 armed people.

According to the sources, Labazanov is heading a gang of 500 gunmen whose major business is kidnapping of girls who are then sold as prostitutes to Central Asia, the Middle East or northern Africa. The girls are reportedly smuggled out via Georgia and Azerbaijan.

The sources said that the Labazanov's gang is especially active in the Nadterek region which is known for its resolute opposition to Dudayev. They try to intimidate the people by violence, robberies and murders and thus establish control over the region, they added.

Aushev Doubts Ingushetia's Stay in Federation

MK0904095094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Apr 94 p 3

[Unattributed report under the "NEGA Reports" rubric: "Republic of Ingushetia"]

[Text] In a press conference yesterday, Republic of Ingushetia President Aushev related his impressions of his participation in a 7 April private session of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation that looked at the situation in the Ossetia-Ingushetia conflict zone and confirmed an edict of the Russian Federation president on extending of the state of emergency on part on the territories of the Republic of North Ossetia and the Republic of Ingushetia. The Ingushetia president is known to have walked out, stating that the edict took no account of the Ingush side's wishes regarding the narrowing of the state of emergency zone down to Prigorodnyy Rayon, the scene of hostilities in October-November 1992, and the placing of the rayon governing bodies under the Provisional Administration. None of the points in the Russian Federation president's edict had been agreed on with the Ingush side, whereas the remarks of the Ingush "vis-a-vis" from Vladikavkaz had been reflected in the text of the edict.

Insisting on his own version that Russia and, in particular, Sergey Shakhray, its vice premier and minister for the affairs of nationalities and regional policy of the Russian Federation, remain guilty for the conflict that continues between the republics of the Federation, Ingushetia President Aushev doubted the wisdom of Ingushetia's remaining in the role of Russian Federation component if this does not find practical expression.

Nuclear Waste Leak Feared at Krasnoyarsk-26

LD1104150694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1327 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Head of the nuclear safety research center of the Socio- Environmental Union Vladimir Chechetkin has expressed fears about a possible leak of liquid nuclear waste pumped into underground streams at a nuclear facility outside Krasnoyarsk named Krasnoyarsk-26.

In an interview with Interfax, he said that no thorough geological study of the area had been conducted though the underground nuclear waste storage at the Severny test site had been in use for 30 years.

Chechetkin does not rule out that the nuclear waste is not leaking out onto the surface through cracks. The test site is about five kilometers away from the Yenisey River, a fact causing particular worry by Russian environmentalists.

He also spoke of as many as 10 contaminated spots being found along the main pipeline through which the waste is pumped from the facility to the site, with radiation levels 200 times higher than normal background radiation. Among other substances, the waste contains plutonium whose half life is 24,000 years.

Experts fear that contamination may spread over a larger area. This raises particular dangers in as the plant management obtained a licence for collecting wild berries, mushrooms and herbs there.

Chechetkin said that plans were under way to put up a new facility for reprocessing nuclear fuel and that the project provided for the burial of tritium at the Severny site. He warned about dire implications from the continued pumping of liquid nuclear waste underground.

Kuban Cossacks Issue Ultimatum Over Immigrants

PM1104132194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Apr 94 p 2

[Report by Andrey Aderekhin: "Kuban Cossacks Against Newcomers"]

[Text] Krasnodar—The atamans and cossacks representing the cossack societies of Akapaksiy, Primorskiy, Krymskiy, Temryukskiy, and Slavyanskiy Rayons have sent an "open letter" to the kray administration chief, the head of the internal affairs administration, and the atamans of the all-Kuban and Kuban cossack troops issuing a tough ultimatum.

"Our patience is at an end," the cossacks stated, protesting at what in their opinion is the planned settlement of Kuban by Caucasians. "And we resolutely inform you that to avoid an ethnic explosion in our rayons you must take urgent steps to expel those who, having arrived in Kuban, are stirring up trouble, sowing interethnic hostility, and making the Kuban people hostage.... Unless you take resolute steps we retain the right to raise the people to a public tribunal against the Caucasians who are violating our traditions and customs."

Military Seize Power Stations in Chita Region

LD1104060194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0544 GMT 11 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Fomin]

[Text] Chita April 11 TASS—The military seem to have lost patience with the crisis of non-payment and the dictatorship of the monopoly energy suppliers in Russia. Informed sources in the administration of the Chita region have told ITAR-TASS about two cases of army units seizing power installations in eastern Trans-Baykalia in the first ten days of April.

The first incident was reported in the Borzinsk district, where the power suppliers cut electricity supplies to one of the military units which failed to pay for the earlier supplies. The army reacted promptly by occupying an electricity substation.

Some days later a similar case was reported in the Chernyshevsky district. Both conflicts were settled only after state authorities intervened.

The army units stationed on the territory of eastern trans- Baykalia have not been adequately financed for some time already and owe the electric power sector about five billion roubles (2,822 million dollars)

Novosibirsk Voter Turnout Detailed

944F0543A Novosibirsk VECHERNIY NOVOSIBIRSK in Russian 5 Apr 94 p 4

[Article by Vladimir Kuzmenkin, VECHERNYY NOVOSIBIRSK political observer: "City Something..."]

[Text]**The city electoral commission started to work right away, and several days after the elections to the Novosibirsk City Deputy Assembly we have an opportunity to learn about the results of the voting in each of the 25 electoral districts. The dry figures lead to interesting speculation—there will be more about them a little later; first, the main thing.**

The main thing is that Novosibirsk residents elected only 10 of the 25 deputies to the city Assembly. These 10 of the people's elect will soon receive temporary certificates, but it is still too early to say anything definite about the organ we elected, or even simply to state whether it exists or not! The fact is that there simply are no regulatory documents—they apparently forgot to write them. So SOMETHING exists in Novosibirsk, but we can say nothing about the details. For now the mayor has added some clarity: Viktor Tolokonskiy stated that the deputies must begin their work and that he personally will do everything necessary to make sure that this happens as quickly as possible.

1. ONLY ONE OUT OF FOUR VOTED...

Of the 1,065,304 registered voters, 267,977 were not too lazy to come to the electoral precincts. This is only 25.2 percent of the overall number of voters. And if that were not bad enough, some of our compatriots preferred either to destroy their ballots or take them for souvenirs, as a result of which the electoral commissions, to their regret, found in the ballot boxes (the word is somehow fitting) an even smaller percentage—22.8 percent. But the rayons voted in different ways. For example, residents of Zayeltsovskiy Rayon contrived to elect all three of their deputies and the residents of Pervomayskiy and Tsentralnyy Rayons elected their one each. That was the maximum, and then came: Kalininskiy—two out of three, Dzerzhinskiy—one out of two, Sovetskiy—the same, Oktyabrskiy—one out of three. Three rayons were left out of the game: Residents of Zheleznodorozhnyy Rayon were unable to elect their one deputy; Kirovskiy residents elected none of their three deputies; and voters of Leninskiy Rayon failed to elect even one out of five....

2. DEPUTIES

Be that as it may, we did manage to elect 10 deputies. We have published the lists so there is no point in repeating them; let us note only the most interesting details. In the first place, 11 deputies from the former city soviet were vying for mandates at the same time: the largest number—three—in Kalininskiy Rayon, and not a single one in Pervomayskiy, Tsentralnyy, or Zheleznodorozhnyy. Only one of them was ultimately successful: Vasiliy Krivoshchekov was elected in Kalininskiy Rayon.

Second, only three of the deputies were nominated by voter associations. That same Krivoshchekov was nominated by the Club of Deputies and Voters, Georgiy Chulinin—Russia's Choice, and Aleksandr Mankov—Working Novosibirsk.

Third, the city's mayor confirmed his authority and a good deal of popularity: Viktor Tolokonskiy in competition with three opponents was able to win 51.7 percent of the votes.

Let us note also that Nadezhda Boltenko in Zayeltsovskiy Rayon was able to pass up two former city soviet deputies at once: She won more votes than both of the aforementioned deputies together. Aleksandr Mankov also won over two former deputies, but in Kalininskiy Rayon. And in general the voters preferred to see in the city Assembly people who are removed from the political battles: Many of them work in production.

3. GEOGRAPHY

Political geography is an extremely curious thing. Take, for example, Dzerzhinskiy Rayon: In three districts communists solidly gathered 22-32 percent, holding second places. In Zheleznodorozhnyy Rayon the one with the largest number of votes was the representative from the Yavlinskiy bloc, Gennadiy Popov, and in Zayeltsovskiy preference was given to independent candidates. Quite diverse people won in Kalininskiy while the administration chief, Vladimir Afanasyev, won easily in Kirovskiy, garnering more than 40 percent of the votes. In Sovetskiy, on the contrary, administrators met with complete defeat and the chief of the administration and his deputy lost. Oktyabrskiy Rayon made an interesting decision; here the general director of the Novosibirsk directorate of Mosbiznesbank, Anatoliy Zvyagin, became a deputy, and in another district the leader was Vasiliy Vereteno, who was nominated by the Siberian branch of the International Association of Enterprise Leaders.

4. SYMPATHIES

An interesting picture emerges here too. True, it is necessary to do one thing: We will count those who gathered the most votes in their district but still did not become deputies because of a confluence of circumstances (voter apathy, poor positioning of the stars, etc.) but simply the winners. This simplifies things considerably: Ultimately the discussion can be only about sympathies.

Well, let us publish, as they say, the whole list. The anti-Yeltsin opposition had a serious stake in the elections to the city Assembly. Although, true, they still could not reach agreement among themselves. As a result the communists would put up one person, Working Novosibirsk—two, and Homeland—one. The oblast organization of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation ran seven candidates—one took first, three took second, and three failed. Working Novosibirsk received two firsts, two seconds, and again three failed. Homeland's indicators are not as good: one first, one second, and five "zilch." Representatives of the National Salvation Front and the Novosibirsk people's assembly lost solidly.... The Liberal Democratic Party, which intended to install three of its members as deputies, suffered a painful defeat—all of its candidates did badly, and the leader, Kirill Volobuyev, in his own electoral district received half as many votes as his only opponent.

Now let us look at the other side. Democrats received five first places: two for Club of Deputies and Voters, and one each for Russia's Choice, Yavlintsy, and Forum. Only the candidate from Democratic Russia won no laurels. Russia's Choice gained a first and a second place. The ones that looked weakest were the candidates from the Forum voter club: one first place and two failures. Note that the SOTSPROF trade union failed: a second place and two "zilch" and the same fate befell the only candidate from Unity. And for the Club of Deputies and Voters the indicators are these: two first places and an equal number of failures.

As for the administrators, here not everything is so simple. The mayor won quite confidently, the head of the administration was also on top, but the head of the administration of Sovetskiy Rayon lost by a mile to his only opponent. As for their deputies, one out of the four took second place.

In general there are stable sympathies for the center and the people who were able to convince the voters that they were the "movers and shakers." If all the deputies had been elected, the two administrators would have been joined by 12 independent (from whom?) deputies, six representatives of democratic blocs, and four from the opposition.

Now a little about the details. In face-to-face confrontations between supporters of the current reforms and representatives of the opposition the former won six times and the later won four times. Seven times the opposition kept itself from winning. The Communist Party, Working Novosibirsk, and Homeland frequently battled against one another, apparently remaining true to the old ideological principle: "And who the hell are you?" Another interesting detail: Young leaders of the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] and RCWP [Russian Communist Workers Party] (nonetheless already the top people in their parties) ran in two districts—the chairman of the Novosibirsk branch of the former, Kirill Bolobuyev, and the secretary of the oblast committee of the latter, Sergey Krupenko. Both suffered serious defeats and both lost to women: a teacher and a physician. Women, incidentally, came in first in seven out of 25 cases.

5. CONTINUATION FOLLOWS

There will apparently be nothing to report on the Novosibirsk Assembly itself in the near future, but we will definitely try to tell you about the deputies and their work.

International Affairs

Reporting on Black Sea Fleet Attack

Ukraine Accuses Fleet of Removing Equipment

LD0904122394 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] The Ukrainian Naval Command today accused the Black Sea Fleet of illegally removing radio-navigational and hydrographical equipment from the port of Odessa. A statement by the Ukrainian Navy's press service says that the hydrographical vessel Cheleken left the port of Odessa overnight and is at present heading for Sevastopol. The press center says that Ukrainian border guards were prevented from boarding the ship by armed Russian sailors who had allegedly been ordered to open fire in the event of any action measures by the Ukrainian side.

Interfax asked the Black Sea Fleet headquarters to clarify the situation. The headquarters said that the incident is linked to the fact that Ukraine has stopped financing the navigational services in the Black Sea and, since by treaty they are meant to be funded by Kiev as well by Moscow, Russia cannot and does not intend to finance the services at its own expense.

Kiev Cites 'Terrorist Act'

LD0904191394 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] On 9 April, Anatoliy Kovalyov, counsellor-minister of the Russian Embassy in Kiev, was summoned to the Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry. A note of protest was handed to him in connection with the illegitimate actions of the Russian survey vessel Cheleken in the vicinity of Odessa. On the night of 8-9 April, in gross violation of international law, it resorted to violence with the threat of arms and illegally seized hydrographic and navigational equipment belonging to Ukraine. The fact that people's lives were endangered is grounds to qualify these actions of the command of the Russian vessel as an international terrorist act. It was only due to the balanced stand of the Ukrainian guard that bloodshed was prevented. The irony of this bandit action deserves special attention. It was carried out on the eve of the celebrations in connection with the 50th anniversary of Odessa's liberation from the German fascist invaders.

The Ukrainian side demands that the seized property of Ukraine be returned immediately and those guilty be severely punished.

Ukrainian Troops Storm Unit

LD1104062594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0615 GMT 11 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow April 11 TASS—Commander of the Black Sea Fleet Admiral Eduard Baltin has described as "actions of uncontrollable gangs" the act of provocation which occurred in Odessa on Sunday night, when some 120 Ukrainian commandoes stormed the Black Sea Fleet's local conservation division.

According to Andrey Grachev, the chief of the Black Sea Fleet press centre, the storming was conducted from 21:00 to 23:00 [1700 to 1900 GMT] on [10] April. The Ukrainian storm troopers arrested Russsian officers Oleg Feoktistov, Dmitriy Starikov and Aleksandr Zelyonka. According to the source, the Russian naval officers were handcuffed, although their only "offence" was that they remained loyal to the oath of allegiance they gave once. The other officers and midshipmen of the division were blocked by Ukrainian commandoes inside the division base.

Grachev said the Ukrainian Navy commander Vladimir Beskorovainy was aboard the commandship Slavutich in Odessa at the time and his complicity in the action was, according to Grachev, beyond doubt.

Russian Sailors Said Wounded

LD1104075394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0720 GMT 11 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow April 11 TASS—There are wounded among the personnel and children of Russian sailors as a result of an assault of the Conservation Division of the Black Sea Fleet, deployed in Odessa, by the Ukrainian Special Task Force in the evening of April 10. Windows were smashed in the premises of the unit, the civilians working there were beaten up and transported to the populated locality of Chabana, suburb of Odessa, ITAR-TASS learned today in the morning from Andrey Grachev, head of the press centre of the Black Sea Fleet.

According to Grachev, the room where the division's weapons were kept, as well as premises of the secret and financial services, were sealed and are now being guarded by the Ukrainian Special Task Force.

Commander of the Black Sea Fleet Eduard Baltin described the incident as "actions of uncontrollable gangs". Russian sailors cannot understand how Ukrainian soldiers can be so malicious and cruel to their Slavonic brothers. They displayed utmost cruelty during the capture of the division of the Black Sea Fleet.

No Communications With Fleet Unit

LD1104094594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0926 GMT 11 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Sevastopol April 11 TASS—It is impossible to contact Russian servicemen from the Black Sea Fleet unit which was stormed by Ukrainian commandos late on Sunday [10 April] as communications with the 46th Hydrographic Division of the fleet situated near Odessa have been disrupted.

The fleet command is working to stabilise the situation, spokesman of the Black Sea Fleet Andrey Grachev told TASS on Monday. He did not elaborate.

Response to Cheleken Incident

LD1104110794 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 0935 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Odessa, 11 Apr—According to the Black Sea Fleet press center, about 120 Ukrainian naval servicemen stormed the Odessa conservation division of the Black Sea fleet between 2100 and 2300 on 10 April. [passage omitted]

Sources close to Ukraine's Navy headquarters said the action was a response to the unlawful conduct by the Black Sea Fleet Command Conservation Division 318 and the command of the Cheleken hydrographic vessel. The Black Sea Fleet press center report on the course of the aforementioned incidents is therefore biased and will only aggravate the tension.

Defense Ministry: Facilities Freed

LD1104141294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1348 GMT 11 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Sevastopol April 11 TASS— All facilities of the Black Sea Fleet seized by Ukrainian servicemen in Odessa had been freed as of 16:00 Monday, a high ranking Black Sea Fleet officer quoted Ukrainian Defence Ministry officials as saying.

First Deputy Commander of the Black Sea Fleet Vitaliy Larionov told ITAR-TASS on Monday that this information is now being checked. Black Sea Fleet leaders are still awaiting a report from the commander of a squadron of reserve ships seized in Odessa. He and his colleagues are also expected to be released.

Larionov described the incidents in Odessa as unexpected, particularly because they occurred when Odessa was celebrating the 50th anniversary of its liberation from the Nazi and because civilians, including women and children, had been affected. Several were injured.

"Our task is to ensure calm in the Crimea and Ukraine. We are not going to brandish arms, but we must protect our officers and their families," Larionov continued. "We could have taken more decisive measures, but we decided against it for the benefit of Russia and Ukraine as we remembered that the Black Sea Fleet is subordinated to both."

Navy Officials Deny Claims

WS1104161694 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Excerpts] On 10 and 11 April, Russian mass media reported on unusual incidents in Odessa—an incident with the hydrographic ship the Cheleken, and an assault by a Ukrainian special task force on a Black Sea Fleet division. [passage omitted] We have a live connection with our Odessa correspondent Leonid Denysko.

[Denysko] A couple of hours ago, First Rank Captain Volodymyr Orlov, senior naval chief of the Ukrainian Navy Odessa garrison, and First Rank Captain Mykola Arkhypov, Odessa Border Ship Brigade commander, held a news conference. There was an urgent need to deny the next lie [word indistinct] regarding the incident in the port and the events that followed. The reports cited a few minutes ago make people feel ill at ease. One has the impression that there is shooting in Odessa, that people are being handcuffed and abducted. What happened in reality? The hydrographic ship Cheleken belonging to the Black Sea Fleet shipped foodstuffs for the military contingent in Odessa. Before the return journey on the evening of 8 April, the cargo deck was loaded with alleged navigation equipment. Given that the ship, for some reason, was sailing under the Russian flag, the senior naval chief on legal grounds requested that the shipping documents be presented. He wanted to know whether there was a permit to ship property from Ukrainian territory, and where and to whom it was being shipped. The captain of the ship stated that Cheleken was Russian territory and that he would not allow any inspection. He ordered the crew to cast off. Unarmed border guards sealed off the moor. Soon, a group of sailors armed with assault rifles arrived at the [word indistinct] Odessa Harbor from the 318th Black Sea Fleet Conservation Division. They were ordered to secure the ship's departure. Cheleken cast off and, threatening an accident, sailed off toward the external roadstead. A cutter approached it. Using light signals, loudspeakers, and the radio, border guards ordered the violators to return to the moor to sort out all the circumstances. There was no response. Only due to border guards' patience a collision was averted. Escorted by another cutter, Cheleken arrived from Sevastopol [as heard] at 1540 hours on 9 April.

To investigate the incident the Military Prosecutor's Office subpoenaed the direct culprits, Black Sea Fleet officers Feoktistov, Zelenko, and Starkov. They had no individual arms so how can anybody speak about disarming those officers? No force was used against them. After a talk, Zelenko and Starkov were permitted to leave the Prosecutor's Office. However Feoktistov, had to be put to bed, because having taken a drop too much, he was talking gibberish. Thus, he became the only, so to say, victim or hostage in the incident. Regarding any shots, there was only a holiday salvo: On 10 April, the hero city of Odessa was celebrating the golden anniversary of its liberation. It is very sad that this arrogant provocation occurred at such a sacred time. Representatives of the 318th division were also invited to the news conference, but never showed up. However sailors Maltsev, Osadchyy, and Latyshev told reporters that they were gotten up by an alarm, given assault rifles and ammunition, and ordered to act firmly. Asked by correspondents whether they would have opened fire, Latyshev answered: We would not shoot at our countrymen. Given that almost 70 percent of the 318th Division's personnel voiced their desire to serve Ukraine, an order has been issued to transform the division into the 1st Brigade for the Protection of the Water Region, subordinated to the Ukrainian Navy. ITAR-TASS correspondent in Ukraine Yefim Shvartsman and Ostankino reporter Yuriy Kolyvanov who were present at the news conference, officially stated that they did not send any reports to Moscow regarding those events. This is not for the first time that dangerous lies were circulated. This means that someone wants to raise a storm in the Black Sea Fleet, and to cause a quarrel between the two friendly nations. Captains Orlov and Arkhypov asserted that Ukrainian laws had not been violated; the situation is under control, regular service continues on the ships and in the units.

Defense Minister, Polish Counterpart Discuss Cooperation

LD0804150994 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] This is Radio Ukraine World Service. Poland's Defense Minister Mr. Kolodziejczyk is on an official visit to Kiev. He met Ukraine's defense minister, Army General Vitaliy Radetskyy. After the conversation, held in a businesslike manner, journalist Marat Pohorelov invited both leaders to the microphone.

[Begin recording] [Pohorelov] Mr. Minister, if this is not a secret, what issues have you discussed with the Ukrainian defense minister, and what is your vision of the prospects for cooperation between Ukraine and Poland in the military sphere?

[Kolodziejczyk in Polish with superimposed Ukrainian translation] Very serious issues were considered. We met to discuss bilateral cooperation between our neighboring states and our armies. We were discussing Partnership for Peace and exchange of experience between Poland and Ukraine in the field of the armed forces. Other issues were discussed during our meeting; for example, the political situation in Europe, security both on the continent and in our region. We also touched upon other issues that our experts will deal with in greater detail. This refers to joint exercises in the border areas, the antiaircraft defense system, relations between our general staffs, and many other issues.

[Radetskyy] The meeting with the Polish defense minister was planned according to a preliminary agreement; the more so that the Polish defense minister has just been appointed. He is a (?former) militaryman; an admiral, he graduated from the Academy in Leningrad and the Academy of the General Staff. It is very easy to talk with him about the problems facing both the Polish Army and the Ukrainian Army today. Actually, they are similar.

We agreed that our expert groups will work out issues of technical, logistical support, [words indistinct] in the military industrial complex.

I briefed Poland's defense minister on the current state of affairs in Crimea and on how this problem is being tackled there. The problems facing Crimea and the Black Sea Fleet today are complicated. But they need to be solved, to be solved consistently. We favor this, but [words indistinct] on the side of Russia.

[Pohorelov] On the same day, Mr. Kolodziejczyk laid flowers at the grave of the Unknown Soldier, met the leaders of Ukraine's military-industrial complex, and visited the museum of the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945. [end recording]

Hold News Conference

LD0904170194 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1220 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] A joint news conference by the defense ministers of Ukraine and the Republic of Poland took place in Kiev. Vasyl Kukurichka has more details.

[Kukurichka] As is known, the Polish National Defense Minister Piotr Kolodziejczyk was on an official visit in Ukraine from 6-8 April. At a joint news conference for Ukrainian and foreign correspondents, Ukraine's Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy summed up the results of the visit by the high guest from the neighboring state.

[Begin Radetskyy recording] Mr. Kolodziejczyk visited Ukraine for the first time ever in his capacity as leader of the military department of the Republic of Poland. But contacts between our defense ministries at such a level already have a certain history. This is the best proof of the fact that relations in the military sphere between Ukraine and Poland are developing dynamically and fruitfully.

The two neighbors have much in common. They have a common history and struggle for independence. Today, they share a mutual understanding in approaches toward issues of security in Europe and the world in general. This is the aspiration to democracy, a balanced stand in relation to acceding to new European structures, participation in peacemaking forces, and so on.

A significant number of Poles reside in Ukraine and Ukrainians in Poland, which, of course, is nearly the most important factor, among others, of the mutual interest in developing relations.

We regard the Republic of Poland in the new Europe as our strategic partner. [word indistinct] that in Warsaw they have similar views of Ukraine. For example, President Lech Walesa declared that a free Poland is impossible without an independent Ukraine. I am pleased to point out that military contacts occupy one of the important places in the development of relations between our states. They were initiated as far back as last year, when the Ukrainian Defense Ministry and the Ministry of National Defense of the Republic of Poland signed an agreement on cooperation in the military sphere.

I believe that the current visit to Ukraine by my counterpart was fruitful. Throughout the three days the minister had useful meetings: with Ukraine's President Leonid Makarovych Kravchuk, at the Cabinet of Ministers, at the Defense Ministry, at the Foreign Affairs Ministry, and at the Ministry of Machine-Building, Military-Industrial Complex, and Conversion.

There were a number of conversations equally important for both our states. Also, the Polish defense minister familiarized himself with certain aspects of military construction and military personnel training during his visit to the Kiev Military Institute of Control and Communication. Having looked round the Antonov scientific and technical aviation center, my counterpart had an opportunity to familiarize himself with the scientific potential of our country.

During the visit, we considered quite a few important issues, from broadening and deepening bilateral military contacts, to our states' participation in creating a European security system. The latter is important because our states are situated in the heart of Europe, therefore stability on the European continent and in general depend in full measure on stability in this region.

Poland and Ukraine were among the first to join the Partnership for Peace program. This shows that we are striving for sincere goodneighborly relations with all countries participating in this project.

And the program proposed by the U.S. President makes it possible to establish mutually advantageous relations between independent states. The minister and I exchanged opinions on the partnership program. And I want to emphasize that our views regarding their significance and prospects for implementing them on the whole coincide. This concerns such issues as joint participation in peacemaking operations, standardization of armaments, determining military measures and (?forces) with regard to participation in this program, tactics, and so on.

In general, we are putting a considerably deeper content into the Partnership for Peace program and view it as a principle of European security (?at levels of) mutual relations between neighboring states, of regional security, for example in the central-eastern part of the continent, and of general security as a way of creating a new structure of European security. On the whole, the implementation of the Partnership for Peace program will, in our view, make it possible to create additional conditions to achieve full disarmament and strengthen peace on our planet.

As far as the prospects for cooperation between the military departments of Ukraine and Poland are concerned, they encompasss a number of issues. The cooperation plan for this year envisages the exchange of delegations and of experience in developing armed forces and training of military specialists. Work in the field of military equipment is also envisaged. I think that during the Kiev meetings with the minister we have further deepened relations between our ministries and between our countries as a whole. So if military bridges are being made and strengthened, this testifies to the healthy and openhearted relations between the states.

So, may I express my (?certainty) that friendly interest and mutual respect will dominate in future relations between Ukraine and the Poland. [end recording]

[Kukurichka] In his turn, Polish Defense Minister Kolodziejczyk noted:

[Begin Kolodziejczyk recording, in Polish with superimposed Ukrainian translation] I want to emphasize once again that the fundamental principle of Poland's foreign policy is to have the closest possible relations with neighboring states. Ukraine is a very important neighbor for us, if only because our joint border is over 500 kilometers long. Your state possesses huge intellectual potential, the Ukrainian land contains the inexhaustible wealth of useful minerals, and your industry has mastered the most complex technologies. [end recording]

[Kukurichka] In the opinion of Poland's defense minister, relations between our states our good. He confirmed that cooperation with Ukraine in the field of modernizing military equipment, repairing fighting vehicles and providing them with spare parts is of special interest to Poland. Ukraine's and Poland's defense ministers replied to a number of questions from journalists. This is Vasyl Kukurichka, Radio Ukraine World Service.

Zlenko's Turkish Visit Deemed 'Quite Successful'

LD0804221594 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1630 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Kiev, As UNIAN reported earlier, Ukraine's Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko was in Turkey on 7 April on a one-day official visit. In the opinion of Ukraine's Foreign Ministry officials, the visit was quite successful. Ways to intensify bilateral economic relations were discussed. According to the Foreign Ministry, the two sides attach particularly great importance to the interaction within the Black Sea Economic Cooperation framework, especially the fulfilment of bilateral and multilateral cooperation projects in investments, first of all in the sphere of infrastructure modernization and integration in sea, automobile, and air transport.

Turkey is looking for access to the Ukrainian market and proposes cooperation in such spheres as metallurgy and metal work, food processing, ship-building, carriage and bus construction, textiles, sewn goods, cellulose and paper, mining, coal, chemical and petrochemical industries.

Slepichev, Hungarian Counterpart Sign Trade Protocol

LD0804143194 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 0740 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Kiev, 6 Apr—The working visit to Hungary by Oleh Slepichev, Ukraine's minister for foreign economic relations and cochairman of the Ukrainian-Hungarian intergovernmental commission for issues of trade and economic and scientific-technical cooperation, is continuing. During his meeting with his Hungarian counterpart, Vela Kadar, the ministers discussed their countries' economies, primarily in the area of foreign economic links. The two ministers noted that the volume of trade turnover between Ukraine and Hungary has decreased slightly despite the substantial fall in industrial production and the decrease in the volume of Ukrainian exports as a whole. The ministers exchanged opinions on the possibility of setting up joint working groups to elaborate individual directions of cooperation and accelerate the elaboration and signing of agreements on cooperation in the field of transport. Measures to avoid dual taxation were also examined.

During the meeting the two ministers signed a protocol on mutual deliveries of goods and provision of services in 1994. Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs reports that the next session of the bilateral commission is planned for August-September this year.

Kravchuk Aide Suggests Leasing Russian Army Bases

LD1004150894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1322 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Russia may have army bases in former Soviet republics only under formal lease agreements. The republics where it will have bases are to retain ownership of the leased territory and property. A worker on the staff of Ukrainian President Kravchuk said that in an interview with Interfax. The man preferred to remain unidentified.

The Kravchuk Administration felt the naval facilities of Sevastopol could be leased to Russia but must still be regarded as Ukrainian naval facilities on lease to Russia. If they were regarded as Russian property, said the unidentified Administration spokesman, the situation would compare to that around the Guantanamo base in Cuba.

In the meantime, chief Aleksandr Kluban of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry's press service told Interfax-Ukraine that the deployment of Russian armymen outside Russia was not Ukraine's headache. He said Russia had so far made no such proposition to his republic.

U.S. Experts Ready To Help Shut Down Chernobyl Plant

LD0804083994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0743 GMT 8 Apr 94

[By UKRINFORM-TASS correspondent Viktor Kovalenko]

[Text] Kiev April 8 TASS—A team of U.S. energetics experts, led by Deputy Secretary William White, is exploring the possibility of promoting American-Ukrainian cooperation in the effective uses of the coal-burning, nuclear and other branches of the power industry.

White noted on Thurday evening that the purpose of this work was to render Ukrainian scientists broader scientific and financial support. In his opinion, ways should be sought to make up for the 17-19 megawatts that are still being generated by the Chernobyl atomic power plant and which account for about seven per cent of the total quantity of electricity generated in Ukraine. White also pins hopes on cooperation between the Ukrainian and American nuclear laboratories in ensuring the safety of nuclear power plants, on exchanges of experience in the use of alternative sources of electric power.

"Today we are thinking how to stop the still working power units of the Chernobyl atomic power plant. The turning point came when the United States joined our effort to resolve Ukraine's power problems," Ukrainian Vice-Premier Valeriy Shmarov said during a meeting with White.

Shmarov stressed that Ukrainian power engineering specialists had completed the needed calculations and were ready to hold consultations with American colleagues on the commissioning of new generating units at the Khmelnitsk and Rovno nuclear power plants by 1998 in order to be able to close down the Chernobyl plant without any losses. Ukraine also has some technologies for raising the effectiveness of coal combustion at thermal power plants, but lacks the necessary money to implement them.

The question of the exchange of Ukrainian nuclear warheads for Russian nuclear fuel was also discussed during the meeting. White said that the 60 million U.S. dollars, earmarked to pay Ukraine for the nuclear weapons withdrawn to Russia, had already been remitted to the corresponding bank account.

The sides have agreed to sign joint documents after the American experts complete their work and to set up an expert commission to draw up proposals for the thrifty use of electric power and the needed investments, and a document on cooperation in solving problems linked with the Chernobyl atomic power plant.

Official Denies Report on Unsafe Uranium Processing

LD0804172294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1637 GMT 8 Apr 94

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Sergey Kravchenko]

[Text] Kiev April 8—Deputy head of the Ukrainian Environmental Ministry's Nuclear and Radiation Safety department Konstantin Rudya categorically refuted today press reports claiming Ukrainian extraction and processing of uranium is not controlled.

"Some would like to force Ukraine out from the uranium market and make an impression things do not go smoothly in this sphere," he said. "In fact, the branch has its problems both in Ukraine, Russia, Estonia and other former Soviet republics, the problems which were inherited from the semi-classified Soviet Ministry of Medium Machine-Building." Rudya stressed the republic is correcting the past mistakes. For instance, it is creating a system of early warning radiation control and much better decontaminates the environment, dumps and tailing dumps in the areas of uranium workings.

CSCE Expert Group Visits Crimea

LD0904083294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0713 GMT 9 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Brykin]

[Text] Simferopol April 9 TASS—"The results of our trip, together with other materials, will be submitted on April 21 in The Hague to Van der Stoel, CSCE high commissioner for national minorities. They will become a basis for drafting a programme of work with the Crimea and specific directions of the consultative, economic and humanitarian assistance," Emil Payn, member of the Presidential Council of Russia, told ITAR-TASS today. He is now on a working visit in the Crimea as a member of the CSCE expert group.

Speaking about Russia's policy with regard to the Crimea, Payn said that a new conceptual framework, under which the Russian-speaking population in the former USSR republics should be given assistance, is set forth in President Yeltsin's address to the Federal Assembly. "The Crimea is a source of concern for Russia as a potential conflict area. Russia is also concerned over the fact that Russians and representatives of the nations, historically linked with Russia, are living there. The problem of the Black Sea Fleet, which is important both for Russia and the Crimea, will also be tackled," Payn said.

Official Sees Crimea Acting as 'Bridge'

LD1004082494 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0700 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Crimean Deputy Prime Minister Yeveniy Saburov believes that Crimea could become a real bridge between Ukraine and Russia, but for this to happen good will on the part of Crimea has to be accompanied by the willingness of the two states. In Saburov's opinion, confrontation between Ukraine and Russia is doomed since it has no economic basis. At the same time, Russia's friendly attitude to solving Crimea's economic problems inspires confidence, the deputy prime minister said at a press conference in Simferopol.

Turkish Schooner Detained in Sea Economic Zone

LD0804020594 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] The new service of Ukraine's border troops reported that a Coast Guard ship detained the Turkish schooner Bayrakhtar 20 miles from Zmiyinyy Island. The schooner was in Ukraine's exclusive sea economic zone with its tackle ready for fishing. The schooner was escorted to the frontier post in Kamyshova Bay in the city of Sevastopol to undergo full examination. In addition, a large number of fishing nets with radar beacons were discovered in the vicinity of Zmiyinyy Island. The sea border guards keep the entire Black Sea region under observation.

Ministry Declares Jewish Agency's Activity Illegal

AU0704154894 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 2 Apr 94 p 2

[Statement by the Department of Legal Information at Ukraine's Ministry of Justice and UKRINFORM: "A Warning by Ukraine's Ministry of Justice"; date not given]

[Text] On 5 January 1993, Ukraine's Ministry of Justice registered the World Jewish Agency "Sokhnut" as a public organization whose main goal is to assist Ukraine's Jewish population in reviving its culture and traditions.

Despite the fact that the Agency's statutes clearly define the trends of its activity as studying the history of the Jewish people, providing assistance in holding Jewish national holidays, developing ties with the state of Israel and Jewish communities of other countries, the Agency and its head are carrying out active work aimed at illegally boosting the emigration to Israel, under the pretext of education purposes, of the most intelligent, gifted, and physically fit boys and girls aged between 15 and 17, so that they would subsequently adopt Israeli citizenship and Judaism. We believe that this is interference in our state's internal affairs by Sokhnut, since the education of Ukraine citizens abroad is regulated by interstate agreements or bilateral agreements between educational institutions that are only concluded through coordination with the appropriate power structures. So far, there are no such agreements between Ukraine and Israel.

Such activity developed by Sokhnut extends far beyond its statutes and is in violation of Ukraine's Constitution and Ukraine's law "On Public Associations."

In addition, in accordance with information provided by the chief of the State Tax Inspectorate in the Kiev City State Administration, in violation of the requirements specified by Article 24 of Ukraine's law "On Public Associations", Sokhnut is not, to this day, registered by the State Tax Inspectorate and is evading taxes in foreign currency. It conducts its financial operations through small enterprises, in particular, through the small enterprise "The Green Theater."

On the basis of the above and proceeding from Article 29 of Ukraine's law "On Public Associations," Ukraine's Ministry of Justice, as a legalizing body, is issuing a warning to the Agency for the violations of the law committed by Sokhnut. Should such illegal activity continue, the Ministry of Justice will consider taking stricter measures, as stipulated by current legislation, against the Agency to the extent that it may be forced to disband (to be abolished).

National Affairs

IAEA Concerned at 'Critical State' of Chernobyl AES

PM1104100994 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 9 Apr 94 p 1

[Unattributed report under "INFORM" rubric: "Chernobyl Running a Fever"]

[Text] In the opinion of IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] inspectors who have been working at Chernobyl AES [Nuclear Electric Power Station], the sarcophagus is in a critical state. The IAEA director general has proposed (and Leonid Kravchuk has agreed) calling an international conference on Chernobyl AES in the second half of April because the station's safety level does not meet international standards. Malfunctions have also been discovered in its operating units.

There are many reasons—a shortage of skilled personnel and modern equipment, arduous working conditions. It is dangerous to operate the Chernobyl AES. But as we know, under a decision by the Ukrainian parliament, which was facing an energy crisis, the station resumed work last October.

Officers Visit Crimea, Deny 'Flexing Muscles'

AU1104131894 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 7 Apr 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Is Ukraine Flexing Its Muscles?"]

[Text] On 5 April, a group of officers under the leadership of Hennadiy Hurin, first deputy chief of Ukraine's Ministry of Defense General Staff, visited the Crimea. The aim of the visit was to check, as scheduled, the state of affairs and to study problems in Ukraine's military units. On that day, Hennadiy Hurin visited the headquarters of Ukraine's Naval Forces in Sevastopol and ships of the Ukrainian Fleet. The group of officers also included Ukrainian presidential adviser for military issues Major General Volodymyr Petepko, who visited commander of the Black Sea Fleet Admiral E. Baltin in a naval hospital.

On the same day, Ukraine's first deputy minister of internal affairs Colonel General Valentyn Nedryhaylo also visited the Crimea. He headed a group of the ministry's officials that arrived in order to render assistance in the operational work on combating crime.

Both the Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine rejected the assumption by a number of mass media on Ukraine's alleged flexing its muscles in the absence of President Yu. Meshkov [who was on a visit to Cyprus at the time].

Navy Command Appeals to Crimean Leadership

LD1104100494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0902 GMT 11 Apr 94

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Mikhail Stetsyuk for TASS]

[Text] Sevastopol April 11 TASS - The command of the Ukrainian Navy has issued an appeal to the Crimean leadership, urging to "protect the military from political games." The document said that "Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov is counting on the Black Sea Fleet in putting into effect the results of the survey, held in the Crimean Peninsula on March 27." The command of the Ukrainian Navy is concerned over a possible drawing of the armed forces into the implementation of the reform in the Crimea. The appeal stressed that the Black Sea Fleet is subordinated to the Ukrainian and Russian presidents and that citizens of the two fraternal countries are serving there.

Crimean Aide: Ukraine Has Too Many Troops on Peninsula

LD0804164794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1550 GMT 8 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Simferopol April 8 TASS—Not counting the Balkans, the Crimea is the most militarized place in Europe now, according to Valery Kuznetsov, military aide to the Crimean president.

In a conversation with ITAR-TASS on Friday, Kuznetsov pointed out that, besides the Black Sea Fleet and Ukraine's naval forces, around 50 thousand Ukrainian soldiers and officers are concentrated on the peninsula. The amount of military personnel located here was twice as small before the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

The presidential aide expressed his doubts in the necessity of maintaining such powerful military forces in the Crimea. Referring to operational information, Kuznetsov noted that the Ukrainian Defence Ministry "plans to increase its military presence in the Crimea".

The recent sudden visit of Ukraine's military leaders to the peninsula caused sharp indignation in the area and a sharp retaliatory statement from Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov. Similar steps by Kiev, Kuznetsov declared, are not only "a form of pressure, but possible training before future actions intended to change the situation in the Crimea".

President's Office in Crimea Deemed Legal

LD0804180394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1615 GMT 8 Apr 94

[By UKRINFORM-TASS]

[Text] Kiev, 8 Apr—The press service of the Ukrainian president and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine today issued a statement. It says:

In his recent address on Crimean television and at a news conference, Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov used assessments and allegations that deny the expediency and lawfulness of setting up a mission of the Ukrainian president in the Republic of Crimea.

In this connection the press service of the Ukrainian president and the Cabinet of Ministers thinks it is necessary to remember that the mission of the Ukrainian president in Crimea was set up in accordance with the resolution of the Ukrainian Supreme Council of 24 February 1994: On the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea under the existing Constitution and legislation of Ukraine, and the resolution of the Ukrainian Supreme Council of 17 December 1992: On the procedure of putting into force the Ukrainian law on the mission of the Ukrainian president in the Republic of Crimea.

The setting up of the president's mission in Crimea is not a political act, as it is being interpreted by some, but a normal legal process of forming appropriate power structures in accordance with the Constitutions of Ukraine and Crimea, which are intended to ensure cooperation between the bodies of state power in Crimea and the central bodies of state executive power in Ukraine.

Attempts to present the normal process of improving the ties between the Ukrainian and Crimean power structures in a distorted way do not help at all in creating the businesslike atmosphere and stability necessary for economic transformations in this Ukrainian region.

The press service stresses that by their actions the Crimean president and his entourage are not only not assisting in developing friendly and goodneighborly relations between Ukraine and Russia but are also even trying to bring elements of misunderstanding in them.

Meshkov Say He Will Not Meet Kravchuk's Envoy

LD1004162994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1515 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] The president of the Ukrainian Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Yuriy Meshkov, said, "I haven't had any meetings with the envoy of the Ukrainian president to Ukraine, Valeriy Gorbatov, and hope I won't as long the Republic of Crimea exists."

Meshkov said to reporters on Sunday that the situation in Crimea might be destabilized before the convocation of the republic's legislature, elections to which are underway on Sunday along with those to the Ukrainian parliament. "Such attempts are being made by the Kiev leadership but have fortunately been unsuccessful so far," he said.

Meshkov took no part in either round of the Ukrainian parliamentary elections (at the first round, he took his ballot paper away with him and urged all other Crimean electors to do the same). On April 10, he only participated in the Crimean elections.

Asked about the "war of laws" between Ukraine and Crimea, he said, "It isn't a war of laws but Kiev's attempts to make it impossible for us to solve our economic problems." "It is my strong hope that those who take power in Ukraine will simply be reasonable people. That's enough for Crimea," he said.

Russia Bloc Wins Election to Crimean Parliament

LD1104084894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0625 GMT 11 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Simferopol, 11 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—The Russia Bloc, which supports the strengthening of the peninsula's links with the Russian Federation, has won an overwhelming victory in the elections to the Crimean Supreme Soviet. The second round of voting was held on Sunday.

Viktor Alsufyev, chairman of the republic's Central Electoral Commission, said at a news conference in Simferopol this morning that 54 out of the 94 seats in the parliament went to the Russia Bloc. Four seats remain vacant.

Yuriy Meshkov, president of the Republic of Crimea, said in an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent that the Russia Bloc's victory is confirmation of support for the aims and tasks declared by the electoral bloc.

The first session of the new Crimean parliament will be held May 10.

It was also announced at a news conference that the inhabitants of Crimea have taken part in elections to the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet. Eleven deputies from Crimea out of 23 were elected.

Saburov Threatens To Quit After Meshkov Move

MK0904100094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Apr 94 p 3

[Aleksandr Pilat report under the "Crimea" rubric: "Who Is More Dangerous for Europe? Tomorrow is the Second Round of Parliamentary Elections on the Peninsula"]

[Text] Republic of Crimea President Yuriy Meshkov has held a press conference in Simferopol. He announced he had had to cut short his trip to Cyprus owing to a sharply worsened situation in Crimea. First and foremost, Meshkov underlined, was the appointment by Ukraine's president of a representative to the Republic of Crimea. "One can only regret," Meshkov underlined, "there is at the helm of the Ukrainian state at the moment the most dangerous government from the point of view of continued peace and stability in Europe."

Yuriy Meshkov told the journalists that he had repealed the Crimean government's decree on raising the prices of bread by a factor of 2.3. Crimean Vice Premier Yevgeniy Saburov, in his turn, said to the journalists that "if the president puts spokes in our wheels, I would be obliged to relinquish the position and return to Moscow." More so, the vice premier underlined, because already "part of my team has left Crimea because working here is not a simple thing."

Mykola Myhalchenko, the Ukraine president's adviser, also held a press conference in Simferopol. In particular, he said: "If Meshkov is stating that today's Ukrainian leadership is dangerous for Europe, I would like him to take a look at himself. On the contrary, he (Meshkov—A.P.) is terribly dangerous not only for Europe but also for the entire world. His ill-advised actions may result in a situation where Crimea will become a world hot spot." Myhalchenko said that the Ukraine president's representative in the Republic of Crimea would oversee the observance of the Constitution and laws of Ukraine on the peninsula, in accordance with Ukrainian law.

A meeting in support of the president of the Republic of Crimea was planned in Simferopol's Lenin Square on 8 April. It did not take place because of pouring rain. The further situation on the peninsula largely depends on the result of the second round of parliamentary elections scheduled for 10 April.

Meshkov Denies Report of Assassination Attempt

LD0904164894 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] [Announcer Kiselev] Yuriy Meshkov's press service has denied reports that an assassination attempt had been made against the president of Crimea, but according to information from the Crimea With Ukraine association, the president was shot at on 6 April and one of his guards was wounded.

Kostenko: 'President Is Under Nuclear Lobby's Thumb'

WS0804110894 Kiev VECHIRNIY KYYIV in Ukrainian 2 Apr 94 p 1

[Interview with Minister of Environmental Protection Yuriy Kostenko by Oleksandra Oksanchuk; place and date not given: "Nuclear Lobby Begins 'Rebuilding Communism;'"—first paragraph is VECHIRNIY KYYIV introduction]

[Text] The edict by the Ukrainian president from 23 February "On Urgent Measures To Develop Nuclear Power Industry, To Set Up Nuclear Fuel Cycle in Ukraine," which VECHIRNIY KYYIV has already reported on, generated many responses and questions by our readers. How unsafe will the development of nuclear power plants be? The Chernobyl tragedy is still our current problem, it has not fallen into oblivion. We asked Minister of Environmental Protection Yuriy Kostenko to comment on this issue.

[Kostenko] First, I state that this presidential edict was adopted without any cooperation with the ministries and departments—the Ministries of Health and Environmental Protection, the State Committee for Problems of Consequences of the Chernobyl Catastrophe, and the State Committee for Control Over Nuclear Power Industry—which are responsible for the state of the nuclear, radiological, and ecological safety. This edict is a vivid example of how the executive power—our president—violates the Ukrainian legislation and is under the nuclear lobby's thumb. The edict itself is absolutely inexpedient from both economical and ecological viewpoints.

I will begin with the economy. A lot is being written and said about the nuclear power industry being much cheaper than the electric one. As practice shows, electrical energy produced by U.S. nuclear power plants is 1.5 times more expensive than the energy produced by thermal power stations. Why? In the first place, high demands concerning nuclear safety considerably increase the costs and main expenses. In the second place, companies which own nuclear power plants participate in special funds for establishing nuclear waste sites. Third, each nuclear plant should be closed down and neutralized after having worked to the end of its operating life. To implement these conditions, a special fund should be established which will have to include tariffs for electric energy costs. Finally, any state which has nuclear power plants should establish a national nuclear waste site which is an extremely expensive undertaking. In the United States, costs for carrying out scientific research for drafting criteria for establishing such waste sites stood at over $1.5 billion, while building costs of the nuclear waste site were estimated at more than $6 billion.

One more important point. According to the concept of the development of the nuclear power industry in Ukraine, we are planning to begin using "KANDU" nuclear reactors produced in Canada. They are safer than Russian ones. In addition, they can use the natural uranium and we can stop buying the concentrated uranium in Russia. Why should we build imperfect reactors? Is this advantageous for someone?

[Oksanchuk] However, deliveries of Russian nuclear fuel to Ukraine is one of the conditions for our disarmament, one of the provisions of a tripartite Moscow agreement. Currently, only we are keeping to this agreement....

[Kostenko] This is the thing. Although we have delivered 120 warheads to Russia, we are still waiting for Russian deliveries of the concentrated uranium. When the Supreme Soviet discussed disarmament issues, the matter of establishing a joint enterprise for dismantling armaments and the further use of the concentrated uranium for the nuclear power industry was raised. This would have been more advantageous for Ukraine than obtaining nuclear fuel from Russia. For example, the costs of an enterprise—which "General Electric" promised to build with us—to dismantle ammunition and transform the highly concentrated uranium to the low concentrated variety would have stood at $25-35 billion. The United States' financial support for our disarmament could have been used for this purpose. Therefore, it would have cost nothing for Ukraine to set up such a joint enterprise. If the Ukrainian nuclear power industry begins operating "KANDU" reactors, we will have enough nuclear fuel—extracted from warheads—for over 150-200 years. Currently, we give back everything and receive only partial compensation which will cover our demands for only three-five years.

In my opinion, no economic crisis can justify the operation of the second Chernobyl reactor. God forbid the next accident! Otherwise, this portion of the Ukrainian soil will forever become a radiological cemetery.

In Zaporozhie, where the sixth nuclear reactor will be put into operation soon, the nuclear power plant is located close to the thermal electric plant. Discharges from the thermal electric plant mix with an enormous quantity of steam discharged from the nuclear power plant and cause oxide rains. This region which is very important in the production of agricultural products is experiencing a serious ecological crisis because oxide rains devastate everything. It is necessary to estimate what is cheaper—operating a nuclear plant or producing high quality agricultural products.

The Rovno nuclear power plant was probably built on karstenite cavities. Expenses to underpin the foundation of this nuclear plant have already exceeded the planned expenses of this site by 40 percent.

The aforementioned presidential edict also includes a clause which foresees putting into operation a new block at the South Ukrainian nuclear power plant. To put it into operation, a big reservoir should be built because the low water in the Yuzhnyy Bug River does not allow the effective cooling of the reactor. This reservoir will cover large territories. This situation has already been discussed twice by sessions of ecological experts: The first one was held in the time of the former USSR; the second one—recently, by our ministry. Both inspections stated the inexpediency of setting up one more reservoir because picturesque landscapes will be covered with water and the ecological balance will be disturbed. In general, all this can lead to the death of the river. The situation will likely resemble that of the Dnieper cascade, where reservoirs turned into stinking bogs.

Therefore, I state that the implementation of this edict will have one result: Ukraine will be economically ruined and the ecological situation in the Republic will be greatly aggravated; if we continue operating our nuclear power plants, the consequences can become really unpredictable.

[Oksanchuk] You opposed and are opposing our president. However, I will vote for you and my next question is as follows: If my Supreme Council candidate cannot do anything now when he is a minister, what will he do in the Supreme Council?

[Kostenko] I am sincere: I owe everything that I have done within the ministry only to my deputy status. I have always opposed anti-ecological decisions. (A minister who opposes the government is not welcome there.) Do you remember the situation when Lanovyy began opposing the president, and was immediately dismissed? I used my deputy status to oppose the passing of the anti-ecological law by the government. However, there are limits to everything. Currently, it is difficult to speak about any results when the state management of the environmental protection branch has not undergone any reforms. Reforms will be possible when the Supreme Council adopts corresponding decisions. Therefore, I am running in the elections because the office of the minister does not enable me to proceed with ecological reforms. I am pinning my hopes on the new Supreme Council which—if our people make the appropriate choice—will first and foremost think about the future strong and independent Ukraine with clean fresh winds and water, green forests, and a healthy population.

Kravchuk Interviewed on Progress of Election

LD1004155194 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1110 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk today took part in the second round of the election to the Supreme

Council of Ukraine. After taking part in the election, the head of state granted an interview to representatives of the Ukrainian and foreign mass media. You are invited to listen to a report filed by our correspondent Eduard Kotenko.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified journalist] Leonid Makarovych, as head of our state and its citizen, how do you envisage the newly elected Supreme Council, if it is elected today?

[Kravchuk] There is such a notion in statistics and in sociology as insufficiency of data required for analysis. Because sociologists take either 1,000 or 1,500 respondents [pauses] ... It has its own laws.

Well, 90 deputies have been elected by now. At the previous election we elected, as far as I remember, five out of 33 and now we have elected four out of 16. Well, they failed to elect approximately 25 percent of candidates altogether, 20 to 25 in all. If we apply this figure to the coming elections, 25 percent is not the kind of figure that would enable one to say that the Supreme Council will not be elected. At present, we should speak not about whether or not the Supreme Council will be elected, but what will be the first steps of the new Supreme Council, so as to create law-governed and responsible authorities.

And I think the Supreme Council should gather, and the deputies, because it is they who are responsible [words indistinct], should adopt at least three laws: On the status of the president, on delegating plenary powers, and on a mechanism of subordinating lower-ranking bodies of the executive power to higher-ranking bodies of power [words indistinct].

Then the election, if it does take place and if those laws are adopted [pauses] ... People will know whom they elect and what [words indistinct] enjoy. If we fail to do this at once, we will create a source of conflict between the representative bodies of power and the elected president. He will then say: Good people, I was elected legitimately as head of state and head of the executive power. And on which grounds are you depriving me of these plenary powers? This often happened to me: First I was granted powers, then I was deprived of them.

Well, we somehow managed to find a common language. But if everything boils down to confrontation, we will again begin with what we finished up and we will produce nothing new. This is a question of principle, a question of principle, indeed. I only want a legitimate, law-governed Supreme Council to be elected, based on laws, responsibility, reason, and the real situation. I would like it to be an authority which assumes control and works for reforms, for democracy, and for our independent state, and that it will work on the basis of the law and not on good wishes only. [end recording]

[Announcer] That was an interview Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk granted at his polling station during the second round of the election to the Supreme Council of Ukraine. The report was filed by correspondent Eduard Kotenko.

Kravchuk Optimistic New Parliament Will Be Elected

LD1004122594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1117 GMT 10 Apr 94

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Viktor Demidenko for TASS]

[Text] Kiev, 10 Apr—"I think that today, despite the imperfection of the law on elections which is a relic of the former Soviet system, we will elect a new parliament which, guided by the law, will take government into its hands and will work for reforms, for democracy, for an independent state," Ukraine President Leonid Kravchuk told journalists at a polling station today immediately after voting.

Speaking of the presidential elections on 26 June, Leonid Kravchuk noted that he is personally not against them being held. However, laws on the status of the president, on his powers, on the structure of bodies of power must be adopted first. Leonid Kravchuk stressed that unless these legislative acts are adopted, he will not stand for the post of head of state. He noted, moreover, that if only representative functions are delegated to the president, then, in his opinion, such a head of state is not necessary.

Kravchuk Urges Religious Harmony

WS0804171194 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 5 Apr 94 p 2

[Statement by the Ukrainian Presidential and Cabinet of Ministers Press Service]

[Text] The Ukrainian president receives appeals from believers of different faiths saying that at present, especially during the Supreme Council elections, various political forces seek to use the authority of the church for their own purposes. This inevitably leads to an exacerbation of the situation, complicated as it already is.

In this regard, the Ukrainian president expressed his point of view on this issue.

Now, when the Ukrainian people are building their independent and unified state under extremely difficult political and economic conditions, each and every citizen must realize that the state-building process should be conducted based on democracy and normal human relations, regardless of convictions or creed.

The state guarantees equal rights and freedoms to all citizens, regardless of their religious beliefs. According to present Ukrainian legislation, interference on the part of any state institutions or political groupings in the internal affairs of the church is inadmissible. Particularly dangerous for all of society are attempts by illegal military groups to resolve interfaith problems using violent methods. Unfortunately, such cases were reported in the past and included among others, forcible takeovers of temples and their property. This kind of illegal action should be controlled by relevant state institutions responsible for applying resolute actions to head off and stop conflicts.

One should understand that the church performs very special functions which cannot be performed by any other state or public institution. It instills the most fundamental human values—spirituality, compassion, sensitivity, and love for our fellow man. This is what its unique role in society is all about.

The present religious strifes, kindled by certain political forces, destabilize the situation in Ukraine. And all this is happening at an historic time, when we are in so much need of unity, consolidation of all patriotic forces, and civil accord.

This cannot help but worry the president, because peace among religions is an important condition for peace in society and a successful state-building process. Relations between church and state should be based on present Ukrainian laws and take into consideration the canonical teachings of all churches.

The president instructed local executive bodies to ensure strict compliance with all Ukrainian laws regarding the church, and held them responsible for the consequences of any illegal actions on the part of separate individuals and political groupings that stir up religious strife and increase tensions in society.

Plyushch on Tasks of New Parliament, Future of CIS

LD1004133094 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Ivan Plyushch, chairman of the Supreme Council of Ukraine, voted today at his polling station in the Tsentralnyy electoral district in Kiev. At journalists' request he answered several questions, in particular, those dealing with the urgent tasks facing the new parliament of Ukraine and the future of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

[Begin Plyushch recording] Urgent steps should be taken to form a government which will take upon itself full executive power and get down to what we call the stabilization of our socioeconomic situation.

The urgent task, therefore, is to elect the head of the government, to determine that he will be head of the executive power—I am in favor of a prime minister being head of the executive power—and charge him with forming his team within the shortest possible period of time and getting down to fulfilling his duties.

If this is done in parliament, the next issue will be to introduce amendments into the law on the president, and determine what kind of president Ukraine will need in future. After that it will be necessary to pass the law on the plenary powers of local bodies of power, in other words, the law delimiting powers between the central executive power bodies and local bodies; work toward that end is already being done by the standing commissions of the current parliament. That is to say, the next step should be to solve the issue of local regional self-management and self-government. People in all oblasts have already understood that there must be no dyarchy, and they want and dream that the coming election in June will allow the formation of representative executive bodies and make territories controllable and manageable.

The CIS is necessary. From the very first day, Ukraine has been within the CIS and today remains within the CIS. The CIS will work as a Commonwealth of Independent States only when all states want it to. For Ukraine alone to wish this would be far from enough. If we had examples to show, as it probably seems to some, that Ukraine has no full confidence in this Commonwealth and hence the results in Ukraine [as heard], why are there no results in those states which do have full confidence? Take Kazakhstan and Russia, for example. They have so much faith in each other that they consider themselves to be in the closest possible [word indistinct]; however, the results are the same.

This is why I favor the idea that [pauses] ... For example, you remember that when we considered this issue in parliament I read out a letter, an appeal to the Ukrainian parliament, from [Yuriy] Shafranik, Russian minister of fuel and energy. There has been little change since then. Specific steps are being taken on the part of Ukraine, and you know that our Ukrainian Construction Ministry has concluded agreements according to which about 50,000 Ukrainian builders will work in Russia, primarily at the Yamal and Surgut deposits. Our builders have gone further; they will work not only at those deposits but have already reached Krasnodar and Stavropol regions. And they already have advantageous options.

Generally speaking, when they say that the construction complex is ruined [pauses] ... In reply to a question, the construction minister told me that 16,000 people have left their concerns over the past two years, but 500,000 are ready to fulfill any programs. That is to say, money is needed.

I believe the CIS is necessary as a commonwealth. We should not lose the market under any circumstances. As for the question of integration, it must be brought to a higher level, a cut above. In the construction complex this is normal. There are other (?industries) as well. Otherwise, people in Surgut, Yamal and other northern regions of Russia would be concerned, because they have no work there already. And if they have no work there, they will come back to Ukraine. And where can you immediately find work here? You know that in such localities, like Zhovtnevyy and others, 40, 50, or even 60 percent of the population are Ukrainians.

Therefore, for a whole number of reasons the CIS is necessary, and I know that in the near future there will be another meeting at chief of state level, and our president, Leonid Makarovych [Kravchuk], is going there with a whole package of proposals concerning the further integration of our national economy complex with the other countries. [end recording]

[Announcer] You have been listening to an interview by Ivan Plyushch, chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Council, which he granted at his polling station. In reply to requests by journalists, he answered several questions, in particular, those concerning the urgent steps of the new parliament of Ukraine and the future of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Polls Declared 'Valid in Nearly All Regions'

LD1004185594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1804 GMT 10 Apr 94

[By UKRINFORM correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Kiev April 10 TASS—As of 19:00 local time (20:00 Moscow time) on Sunday, Ukraine's parliamentary elections can be declared valid in nearly all regions of the republic.

Apart from 21 regions and the Crimean peninsula, where turnout proved to be far above 50 per cent, the required number of eligible voters came to the polls in the Khmelnitskiy and Cherkassyy regions. Thus, the validity of today's polls remains undecided only in the Odessa region, Kiev and Sevastopol, according to UKRINFORM news agency.

Election results will be available after preliminary counting of votes. For the Ukrainian parliament to function normally, at least 300 deputies should be elected to the 450-seat supreme legislature.

312 Elected to New Parliament; Zvyahilskyy Retains Seat

LD1104092094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0708 GMT 11 Apr 94

[By UKRINFORM correspondents Viktor Demidenko, Aleksandr Litvinov for TASS]

[Text] Kiev, 11 Apr—According to preliminary results, 312 of 450 people's deputies of Ukraine have been elected to the new parliament. This number of deputies is sufficient to ensure that the country's Supreme Council opens and works fruitfully, since it comprises a constitutional majority.

Deputies elected in the second round of voting include Ukraine's Acting Prime Minister Yefim Zvyahilskyy, Deputy Prime Ministers Mykola Zhulynskyy and Valentyn Landyk, and well-known politicians Borys Oliynik and Volodymyr Yavorivskyy.

Roundup of Regional Election Results

LD1104101994 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Over 54 percent of the electorate voted in the runoffs held in Kharkov. Elections were invalid in Vyzovskiy, Moskovskiy, and Saltovskiy constituencies due to a low turnout. In Dzerzhinskiy constituency neither of the candidates received the required number of votes. The elected deputies include Volodymyr Hrynyov (Inter-Regional Bloc of Reforms), Mykola Koshlyakov, secretary of the oblast Communist Party committee, Oleh Dyomin, vice president of the UkrSiblnkor association, Oleksandr Karpov, a lecturer of the city's State University, and Oleksandr Chornousenko, head of the Kharkov Oblast branch of the Security Service.

Elections were valid in all of the 17 Zaporozhye Oblast constituencies. In Zhovtnevyy and [name indistinct] constituencies of Zaporozhye city, the winners are Yuriy Syzenko, a worker of Zaporozhye electric wagon repair plant, and Viktor Ponedilok, a scientist of Zaporozhye Technical University.

Our Chernigov Oblast correspondent reports that elections were valid in all of the oblast's constituencies. The average turnout in the oblast was 73 percent, while in Chernigov city it was just over 50 percent.

In Vinnitsa Oblast, people's deputies were elected in 11 out of 16 constituencies which held runoffs yesterday. They include Hryhoriy Nedvyha, an engineer of the locomotive depot, Yevhen Smyrnov, a stage director at Narodnyy Theater, Mykhaylo Parasunko, deputy minister of agrarian policy and foodstuffs, and Oleksandr Stoyan, chairman of Ukraine's Federation of Independent Trade Unions.

Our Odessa correspondent reports that over 62 percent of the electorate voted in the oblast. In Odessa, the highest turnout was in Zhovtnevyy constituency (62 percent) and Malinovskiy (60 percent). Unfortunately, in some constituencies, such as Leninskiy and Tsentralnyy, the turnout was only 48 percent. In the countryside, the highest turnout was in Tatarbunarskiy, Filiyskiy, and Razdelnyanskiy rayons.

Our Poltava correspondent reports that all of the 15 Poltava Oblast constituencies have reported a valid election. The highest turnout was in the countryside. Thus, in Orzhitskiy, Velikobagachskiy, Zenkovskiy, Mirgorodskiy, and other rayons, the turnout was over 90 percent of registered voters. Somewhat lower was the turnout in Kremenchug and Poltava itself. We are unable to name those elected yet, but there is every confidence that the number of Poltava representatives will be larger this time.

Finally, results in the Ukrainian capital. Our presenters on 10 April were unable to quote even preliminary results, saying, however that elections were valid in about eight of the capital's constituencies. Here are the preliminary results of elections in Kiev that we know so far. Out of the 23 constituencies, eight reported a valid election. The elected deputies include Myroslav Horbatyuk, Ivan Zayets, [Minister of Environment] Yuriy Kostenko. I will remind you that people's deputies elected in Kiev on 27 March were Volodymyr Lanovyy and Les Tanyuk. [sentence as heard] All of the Kiev deputies named here are supported by the Ukraina Democratic Association. We have no results yet as to the runoff in Artemovskiy constituency No. 1 where the contenders were lawyer Viktor Medvedchuk and [ex-Minister of Defense] General Kostyantyn Morozov. In two constituencies, Pecherskiy and Podolskiy, neither of the deputies received the required number of votes.

Results of Runoff Elections in Kharkov, Lugansk

LD1004095594 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0800 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Summary] The Ukrainian Radio correspondent at the Central Electoral Commission reported on the results of the runoff election held in the city of Kharkov and in Lugansk Oblast on 9 April.

He said that 10 people's deputies were elected in Kharkov: Two representatives of the Communist Party of Ukraine; one representative of the Socialist Party of Ukraine; three representatives of the Inter-Regional Bloc of Reforms; one representative of the Security Service of Ukraine; two representatives of the Ukrainian-Siberian Investment Corporation; and one representative of the Civil Congress of Ukraine.

Balloting took place in one more constituency in Kharkov, but no winner was declared.

The results of the runoff election in Kharkov are, therefore, as follows: The election took place in 10 out of the 14 constituencies. There was no vote in three constituencies, and no deputy was elected in the remaining constituency. Another round will be held in four constituencies in Kharkov.

In Lugansk Oblast, two representatives of the Communist Party of Ukraine were elected on 9 April.

Today, the names of 90 people's deputies are known out of the 450 to be elected.

According to preliminary data, the breakdown is as follows:

—24 representatives of the Communist Party of Ukraine.

— 5 representatives of the Socialist party of Ukraine.

— 2 representatives of the Peasants' Party. The bloc of the left-wing forces consists of 31 persons, so far.

Lvov Oblast Results Summarized

LD1104132694 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1100 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] We have received a report that elections in all 14 constituencies in Lvov Oblast were valid. The average turnout in the oblast in the second round of elections was 80 percent. Deputy's mandates were won by representatives of Rukh, the Ukrainian National Assembly-Ukrainian Self-Defense, the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists, the Ukrainian Republican Party, and the Democratic Party. In three constituencies, neither of the candidates won the required majority.

Among former people's deputies who were re-elected are Dmytro Chobit and Taras Stetskiv. Larysa Skoryk, Orest Vlokh and Iryna Kalynets lost the election.

Most Election Victors Newcomers

LD1104124894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1159 GMT 11 Apr 94

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Viktor Chamara for TASS]

[Text] Kiev April 11 TASS—The results of the elections in Ukraine, whose second round was held in 350 constituencies last Sunday, remain to be specified. It is already clear, however, that the elections did take place, and as a result of them a new Ukrainian parliament was elected. It will replace the previous one contrary to the opinion of many politicians and sociologists, who forecast the apathy of the electorate and, consequently, the failure of elections.

On Sunday the elections were recognised as valid in 324 constituencies. According to preliminary information, which was available on April 11 in the morning, 222 legislators, elected during the second round, will be added to 90, elected during the first one. Many of the newly elected deputies were members of the previous parliament; specifically, its speaker Ivan Plyushch, chairman of the Ukrainian Socialist Party Aleksandr Moroz, ex-prime minister Leonid Kuchma, chairman of Ukrainian RUKH Vyacheslav Chornovil, ex-vice speaker Vladimir Grinev, acting prime minister Yefim Zvyagilskiy, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet Vasiliy Durdinets and ex-prime minister Vitaliy Masol. The majority, however, are newcomers.

The results of the elections and the make-up of the new parliament are sure to be analysed by specialists. It is obvious, however, that it will have a large group of professional economists and lawyers, who can quickly analyse complex situations and find optimal solutions.

Rukh To Form Faction in Supreme Council

LD1004163594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1515 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Ukraine's Popular Rukh [Ukrainian People's Movement for Perestroyka] will manage to form up its own faction in the Ukrainian parliament, said RUKH leader Vyacheslav Chornovil, after voting in a Kiev polling station.

He expressed fears, however, lest the national democrats might fail to secure the required one third of the votes and block the left-wing forces' attempts to ruin the Ukrainian state system.

Asked by Interfax-Ukraine if he was planning to run for presidency (Chornovil took part in the previous presidential elections - Interfax), he stated that it would be inexpedient to hold presidential elections on June 28, 1994, because the alignment of forces was not in favor of the Ukrainian state or the national-democratic forces. He also announced that RUKH would determine its position on the presidential elections during its congress on April 16.

In his opinion, the victory of Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma was not ruled out. He remarked, however, that Kuchma is an incompetent person, so it would be a crime to let him run the state.

He also denied the possibility of cooperation between the national-democrats and the extreme left-wing and right-wing factions, and described Stepan Khmara, the leader of the Ukrainian Conservative Party popular in Western Ukraine, as the Ukrainian Zhirinovskiy.

Commenting on the situation in Crimea, he said that following the signing of the tripartite statement, Russia would not complicate the situation in Crimea. He noted, however, that this statement did not quite suit Ukraine.

Until recently, Ukraine had neither a strategy nor tactics in relation to Crimea, he said. Instead of overly exaggerating the problem, one should pursue a firm state policy in relation to Simferopol which absolutely depends on Kiev economically, he added. This does not mean, though, that troops should be sent to Crimea, said Chornovil.

Rukh's Chornovil Views Election Results

LD1104104594 Moscow RIA in English 0726 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Kiev, April 11. RIA - Leader of the People's Rukh of Ukraine Vyacheslav Chornovil holds the view that the national-democratic forces have suffered a defeat at the elections to the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine. In an interview with RIA he said that by the middle of April 10 it became clear that the frankly pro-communist forces will have at the minimum one-third of the seats in the new parliament of Ukraine.

However, it is too early for the communists to celebrate a full victory, he went on to say. In his opinion, they will not have one half of the seats in the parliament, and the question what political force will dominate in the Supreme Soviet will be resolved somewhat later, when it becomes clear whom the numerous independent deputies and centrists will side with.

In Chornovil's view, the RUKH movement will be able to form parliamentary group, but the national-democratic forces will hardly win more than one third of the seats. The RUKH leader has stated that he has documents proving the numerous violations of the electoral legislation. The respective documents will be turned over to the Supreme Court of the republic.

Rukh Leader Abduction Linked to Oil Collector Plan

WS0804130494 Kiev KHRESHCHATYK in Ukrainian 5 Apr 94 p 4

[RUKH-PRESS report: "Another Hypothesis"]

[Text] **The abduction of Mykhaylo Boychyshyn was perpetrated by the Russian special services, claims Stanislaw Husak, deputy chairman of the United Party of Belarus [ADPB] and member of the Belarusian Popular Front Council [BNF].**

As everybody knows, the second international conference on the Baltic-Black Sea oil collector (BChNK) was to be held in Kiev on 29-30 January of this year. The conference's initiating group elected Mykhaylo Boychyshyn chairman of the organizational committee. All documents concerning the preparations and course of the conference disappeared with him. The conference was to be attended not only by specialists and government economists from Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, and Ukraine, but also private bankers and entrepreneurs who had previously voiced their readiness to establish the Regional Bank of Development. The bank is expected to finance all design and assembly work connected with the implementation of the idea behind the BChNK.

As Stanislaw Husak, author of the BChNK concept, notes, the implementation of this idea would diametrically change the geopolitical situation in the Baltic-Black Sea region. If the collector is built, Russia will lose its monopolistic status in the four countries' raw materials markets, and, perspectively, also Estonia's. Such a situation would contradict with Russia's aspirations. Therefore, Stanislaw Husak believes, the Russian special services might have kidnapped Mykhaylo Boychyshyn to hinder the conference. All the more so, since such a conference held two months before the elections could have significantly influenced the course of elections and bolstered the authority of Rukh as a political organization.

Although Stanislaw Husak sent a report to Belarusian Prime Minister Vyachaslaw Kebich on the BChNK project as early as the spring of 1993, he has never received any response. The ADPB and BNF leadership decided therefore that it is necessary to support the project through politics. The Belarusian opposition applied to the Peasant Party of Latvia, the Lithuanian

Sajudis, and the Ukrainian Rukh for assistance. In the summer of 1993, the first international BChNK conference was held. The high level of the conference was confirmed by the participation of Ints Jansons, director general of the Latvian conglomerate Latvijas Nafta; Arimantas Dragunevicius, Lithuanian Government adviser for energy issues; Fedor Molochko, director of the Belarusian Thermal Power Engineering Institute; and Stanislav Ivanytskyy, deputy engineer general of the Ukrahazproekt Institute. A feasibility study on the idea of BChNK was conducted during the conference. The invited specialists in design, assembly, and operation of oil pipelines confirmed the feasibility of the project. Members of delegations representing the governments of participating countries supported the idea of building the BChNK.

The Latvian and Lithuanian authorities have recently established committees to support the BChNK project. Despite the mysterious disappearance of Mykhaylo Boychyshyn, the initiating group is preparing the second international BChNK conference in Minsk. The timing of the conference is currently being discussed, and the necessary documents are being reconstructed. Stanislaw Husak has been elected chairman of the organizational committee.

Belarus

Elections: Defense Ministry Warns on Army Involvement

LD0804212394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1622 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Report by BELINFORM correspondent Leoniid Tratsevskiy for TASS]

[Text] Minsk, 8 Apr—"The campaign to elect our first president, which is now under way, is being accompanied by a stepping up of political and media tension around the Army and its daily activities," according to a statement issued today by the Collegium of the Belarus Defense Ministry. The statement points out that "the Armed Forces of Belarus, which are intended for the armed defense of their country and the protection of its sovereignty and state integrity, must not be an arena for political confrontation by any political parties and sociopolitical movements whatsoever."

The statement declares that all attempts to destabilize the political neutrality of the Army and its loyalty to the laws of Belarus will be decisively nipped in the bud. At the same time, the document states, "we will preserve restraint and good sense, we will not allow ourselves to be drawn into political battles and propaganda actions."

Country Asks UN Help for Ethnic Belarusians in Baltics

MK0904101094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 9 Apr 94 p 5

[Report by Valentin Zhdanko under the "Diplomacy" rubric: "Belorussia's Foreign Ministry Asks UN Secretary General for Support. Minsk Worried at Position of Ethnic Minority in Latvia and Estonia"]

[Text] Before UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali's visit, which ended 7 April, Belarus authorities preferred to solve bilaterally the problems of ethnic Belarusians finding themselves outside their own country, and scored certain successes in that.

For example, agreements with Lithuania, where the Belarusian community is especially large, are already working: national schools have been opened in Vilnius and in a Belarusian village there. The Belarusian language is now heard on Lithuanian radio, and a Belarusian newspaper appears in Lithuania's capital. The interests of Lithuanians who live in Belarus are being served in a similar way.

The problems of Belarusians in Latvia, and especially in Estonia, have a somewhat different nature. The matter is that the Slavic population along Lithuania's southeastern border has been there for centuries and has preserved its culture and language. Lithuanian Belarusians had no problem acquiring citizenship. Latvia and Estonia are a different matter. There, Belarusians encounter the same difficulties as do all non-Latvians and non-Estonians.

Until recently, the Belarus side had been trying to resolve the arising difficulties through bilateral talks, in particular during the recent visit to Minsk by Latvian Prime Minister Birkans. All the more unexpected was the news heard from Foreign Minister Petr Kravchenko that, during his discussions with Mr. Butrus-Ghali, considerable attention was devoted to the topic of the Belarusian ethnic minority in Baltic countries. The UN leader promised cooperation in solving this problem and voiced the intention to send, at Belarus' request, a special UN human rights mission to the Baltic countries.

Local observers think in this connection that such an initiative of Minsk officials is the result of private "consultations" held by Belarus diplomats with their Russian counterparts.

Defense Minister Discusses Russian Withdrawal

WS0804184494 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1715 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Belarusian Defense Minister Colonel General Pavel Kazlowski, while touring Homel Oblast this week, visited Russian military units stationed in the area and held negotiations with representatives of the Russian Armed Forces. During those negotiations, conditions for the withdrawal of Russian troops from Belarusian territory, as well as the fate of military quarters and property, were addressed.

General Rules out Foreign Military Presence

LD1004151394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1322 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] The Chief of the National Security Agency under the Belarussian [Belarusian] government Major-General Valeriy Pavlov told INTERFAX Minsk had not yet voiced its view of the Russian plans to build bases in Commonwealth republics.

But, Pavlov said the deployment of strategic units of a foreign army in Belarus was out of question as it would contradict the Belarussian decision to be a neutral and nuclear-free country.

In Pavlov's view, the deployment in Belarus of Russian air bases or antiaircraft units would keep Belarussian armymen in good shape. The Belarussians would familiarize with advanced know-how and be able to resolve their social problems.

According to Pavlov, Minsk would study in detail every scenario for the creation of foreign army bases in Belarus.

Referendum Proposed on Economic Integration With Russia

LD0804195194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1742 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Belarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich did not rule out the possibility that Belarusians would be polled on economic integration with Russia on 23 June when the presidential elections are held.

In an exclusive INTERFAX interview in Minsk Friday Kebich said that he had initially proposed such a move at the meeting of the government presidium Tuesday, 5 April and the idea was supported by all cabinet members.

Kebich said that, according to sociological research, an absolute majority of Belarusian citizens supported a union with Russia.

Kebich said that Belarus was a stable country and the economic union treaty that had been ratified by parliament contributed to the stability. He thought, however, that a poll would indirectly enhance the long-term stability of that treaty, whatever the political situation in the country.

Monetary Union Talks Delegation Ends Visit to Moscow

LD0804151794 Minsk Belarusian Foreign Ministry Department of Information in Russian 1358 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] The three-day working visit to Moscow by a government delegation of the Republic of Belarus has ended. It was led by Mikhail Myasnikovich, first Deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus. Meetings were held with Russia's Prime Minister V. Chernomyrdin, and his first deputy, A. Shokhin. As a result of the negotiations the decision was made to finalize and sign in stages the documents concerning monetary union.

Moldova

Premier Sangheli Rejects Military Cooperation With CIS

LD0804211694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1708 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Kishinev [Chisinau], 8 Apr—Moldovan Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli has stated that his country intends to participate only in economic cooperation within the context of the CIS, and therefore has not signed any agreements relating to military-political cooperation.

At a news conference in Kishinev today, the head of the Cabinet of Ministers rejected the view that following the Moldavan Parliament's ratification today of the agreements signed by President Mircea Snegur on joining the CIS and the economic union, rivers of gas will flow into the Republic from Russia. We advocate equal cooperation with all countries. No one is giving us anything for nothing today, either from Russia or from Romania, the prime minister stressed.

Cooperation within the CIS and the economic union, in his view, make it possible to put on a civilized level the close ties between the former union republics, and to avoid the hard knocks caused when they were unjustifiably broken.

Snegur, Smirnov Agree To Resume Dniester Negotiations

AU0904191594 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1700 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] In accordance with a previous agreement, today President Mircea Snegur held a working meeting with Tiraspol [capital of the self-styled Dniester Republic] leader Igor Smirnov, our Chisinau correspondent reports.

During the meeting they examined a number of issues related to the resuming of negotiations intended to establish the juridical status of the Dniester region under the new sociopolitical circumstances.

The parties reached the conclusion that the process of negotiations will be mediated by the CSCE missions, as well as those of the Russian Federation. They agreed to bolster mutual activity intended to reestablish ties and cooperation in all domains of economic life. They also discussed other problems currently hindering the normal progress of negotiations.

Snegur Acknowledges Starting Activities in Difficult Period

LD0804200894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1739 GMT 8 Apr 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No. 68 (558): Compiled by Nikolai Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] Speaking at a first meeting of the new government of the Republic, President Mircea Snegur noted that he started his activities "in a very difficult period." In this connection, he singled out four main factors of the future activities of the Cabinet.

First, organizational. "It is not enough when the government gets corresponding authorities from the parliament. It should be efficient, functional, take decisions in time, suggesting draft laws, necessary mechanisms and implementing them," the president said.

Second, time factor. In Snegur's opinion, the reorganization of ministries and departmeent should be carried out quicklu and with a considerable reduction of their personnel. The president said that in the past four years the share of state clerks in the total number of employed grew four times, state budget spendings for maintainance of the personnel rose from 0.8 percent in 1989 to 3.2 percent in 1993, and their salaries exceeded the average ones in the republic twice.

In the opinion of the president, this tendency is characteristic for the controlling bodies. Snegur spoke in favor of their reduction, pertinent to the need for the merger of the state control bodies and the existing controlling bodies attached to ministries and departments.

The president named the third priority: the preparation by the government of its program for the next two-three years. In his opinion, this program can be worked out by 1 July. The president thinks that it should envisage acceleration of restructuring and moderniation of the national economy, activization of privatization and social support for the population.

The president said the fourth priority is the personnel issue. In his opinion, now "exact selection and professional training of top executives" are important.

The government decided at its first meeting to recommend the parliament in the near future to ratify the signed agreements on Moldova's entry in the CIS and the Economic Union. At the moment of the Presidential Bulletin's publishing, it was announced that the parliament ratified on Friday the agreement on the creation of the CIS with amendments proceeding from the republic's legislation, as well as the treaty on the creation of the economic union. The changes concern in particular the non-alignment of the republic to military agreements, and non-participation in setting up unified armed forced and the ruble zone.

Snegur, Sangheli Address First Meeting of New Cabinet

AU0804170894 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1907 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 7/4/1994—"The time of unfounded promises and declarations and political confrontation that split up the precedent governments has gone," stated today President Mircea Snegur during the first session of the new Moldovan Government. He mentioned that Moldova is in a very complicated situation which is decisive for the future of the reforms. The president insisted on the need to stop the economic decline, to stabilize the situation and to lay the foundation for the economic take-off that would lead to the consolidation of the statehood. Snegur emphasized that the reorganization of the ministries and departments [words indistinct] and promoted with consistency according to the Memorandum signed with the IMF. Referring to the activity program of the new Government, Premier Andrei Sangheli inferred weight to the social protection and in particular medical care. The government examined and proposed for parliamentary debates the draft decision on ratifying the agreement "Regarding the Creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States" with the amendments imposed by the Moldovan legislation and the treaty "Regarding the Creation of the Economic Union." Vice-Premier Valentin Cunev mentioned that amendments to the agreement have to do with preserving Moldova's independence, meaning that Moldova will not adhere to military agreements, creation of a joint army and ruble zone.

Parliament Debates, Ratifies CIS Agreements

AU0904185994 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1300 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 9/4/1994—The Moldovan Parliament ratified on 8 April 1994, with a majority of votes (80 pros and 18 cons) the Agreement on Creating the CIS and the Agreement on Creating the CIS Economic Union. [Parliament Speaker] Petru Lucinschi proposed to examine this issue reminding that these agreements were examined by the former parliament and that only 4 votes lacked to their ratification. That is why the former parliamentary presidium took into account all economic problems and restrictions caused by Russia and asked the president to sign all the agreements of joining the CIS and CIS Economic Union to Moldova's benefit. A number of 17 deputies have opposed on 8 April the proposal to examine the agreements. The faction of Peasants and Intellectuals noticed that the parliamentary regulations are violated. According to it, the documents to be adopted have to be presented three days beforehand for their examination. PDAM [Democratic Agrarian Party of Moldova— ruling party] representatives and in particular Andrei Diaconu, retorted that the problem is well known and was examined on August 4th, and therefore it would not be reasonable to start a new discussion. Valeriu Matei, from the faction of Peasants and Intellectuals, stated that the documents have a series of stipulations contradicting Moldova's current policy and several legislative documents. Dumitru Motpan, PDAM leader and vice speaker of parliament, replied that the commissions that should ensure the fulfillment of the regulations is only being created. He said that this problem had been examined for two years and the delay in ratifying the CIS agreements would represent a blockage. Dumitru Diacov presented the notification of the Parliamentary Commission of Foreign Relations regarding these documents. He argued that Moldova should join the CIS and mentioned that seven of the nine members of the commission were in favor of ratification, while the other two representing the FPCDM [Christian- Democratic Popular Front — opposition] Alliance and the Bloc of Peasants and Intellectuals opposed it. Premier Andrei Sangheli made a report noting that the CIS agreements should be ratified as soon as possible. He added that after the former parliament rejected them, serious damage was caused to Moldovan economy. In 1993, this sum amounted to 40 billion rubles. Sangheli asserted that the government in its 7 April session agreed to the ratification of the CIS agreements. During the debates, Vlad Clubreacov, from the FPCDM faction, mentioned "the disastrous economic consequences of ratifying the CIS agreements and the danger to which Moldova's independence is unjustifiably exposed." He said that "it is strictly necessary that beside the two agreements presented to us, we should have at our disposal over 200 agreements signed by Moldovan officials. The agreements are only partial and insufficient information, which disguise the real purposes of the previous agreements." Vasile Nedelciuc, faction of Peasants and Intellectuals, analyzed several economic articles of the agreements. He pointed out that Moldova has other alternatives, including the ones in the West, which could help overcome the current difficulties. He said that joining the CIS would negatively influence many areas. One of the consequences is that the legislation must be adjusted to the conditions of the CIS economic community. Speaker Petru Lucinschi said that the decision to join the CIS is not made forever and with new realities coming in power it could be revised. At present, when there is no other alternative but the Eastern market, parliament welcomes the adherence to the CIS.

Dniester, Gagauz Republics Approve Accord Ratification

LD0804205394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1950 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] State Secretary of the self-proclaimed Transdniestrian Republic, Valeriy Litskay, was satisfied with the fact that the Moldovan parliament had ratified the agreement within the scope of the CIS and the Economic Union. He suggested in an interview with INTERFAX that this would help renew the talks between Kishinev [Chisinau] and Tiraspol at a completely new level.

The Gagauz leaders shared this opinion. They approved of the ratification of the agreement by the Moldovan parliament at the session of the Gagauz parliament in Kamrat today.

President of the self-proclaimed Gagauz Republic, Stepan Topal, said in an interview with INTERFAX on the telephone that the Gagauz leaders had been seeking ratification of these documents for the last two years. He suggested that the Agrarian Democratic Party and the Socialist party currently in power in Moldova and their moves, including the agreement's ratification, had laid a good foundation for the renewal of the Moldovan-Gagauz talks at a new level.

The Gagauz parliament approved the activities by the commission for renewal of the talks with Kishinev on the status of the regions with a largely Gagauz population and recommended that the commission work even more energetically.

Opposition Sees New Government as 'Pro-Moscow'

PM0804102194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Apr 94 p 3

[Report by Svetlana Gamova: "Opposition Calls Moldavia's New Government Pro-Moscow"]

[Text] Kishinev [Chisinau]—Some 3 percent of the Republic's budget has annually been spent on 6,000 state officials. Moldavia's [Moldova's] Agrarian Democratic Party, which forms the government, considered it costly for the small state to have 20 ministries and 10 state departments with overly inflated staffs. The state apparatus is being cut by 40 percent.

Two departments have been crossed off the list, including the department dealing with the functioning of the state language—the only one of its kind in the CIS.

For the People's Front opposition this means that it is totally excluded from state structures. Andrei Sangheli is still prime minister. He enjoys prestige among the population of the Left Bank and the south of the Republic, and is also well received in Russian Government offices.

The 16 confirmed ministers include only one "interloper"—Vasile Iovv [surname as transliterated], former trade representative in Russia, who made it on the Socialist Party lists. The other ministers are either members of the Agrarian Party or have sworn loyalty to it.

Foreign Minister Mihai Popov, a graduate of the Diplomatic Academy, worked in the former USSR Embassy in Bucharest. He was recently ambassador to Belgium. The nationalist newspaper TSARA [name as transliterated] saw the appointment of the new head of the foreign policy department as Moscow's doing and KGB intrigue, forecasting a switch from the Moldavian Foreign Ministry's former "European orientation" to a patently pro-Moscow orientation. It is being said in parliamentary lobbies that the new minister is Parliament Speaker Petru Lucinschi's minion; Lucinschi knows him from working with him for several years.

The People's Front, considering the new membership of the government to be pro-Moscow, refused to take part in the ballot, but that had no effect on the result: The list of Cabinet members was passed, and with the current disposition of forces (20 opposition votes to 84) it is quite possible to predict the same outcome for parliamentary decisions in the future.

CSCE Mission Head Talks With President Snegur

LD0804143594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1045 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Talking to the leader of the CSCE Moldovan mission Richard Samuel in Kishinev [Chisinau], Moldovan President Mircea Snegur pointed to the need for continued CSCE activities in his republic.

According to Snegur, Kishinev [Chisinau] and Tiraspol based dialog on the CSCE Moldovan mission's advice for stability in Transdniestria.

The multi-party elections of 27 March, said Snegur, and the victory, in the elections, of a centrist-oriented party, made the solution of the Transdniestrian problem possible.

Snegur and Richard Samuel met in the runup to next week's session of the CSCE's standing council which is to concentrate on the extension of the Moldovan mission's mandate.

Russian Plan for Army Bases Rejected

LD1004143994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1322 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Moldovan Deputy Defense Minister Brigadier General Tudor Dabija told INTERFAX that Russia would never be allowed to have army bases in Moldova. In Dabija's view, Yeltsin's decision to create army bases in Commonwealth republics was out of keeping with the Moldovan military doctrine.

The Moldovan and Russian military could negotiate only one issue, Dabija said, the full withdrawal of Russia's 14th Army from Moldovan soil.

On 7 April, however, the eighth round of Russian-Moldovan negotiations was held in Kishinev [Chisinau]. A draft agreement was initialled on the legal status and reciprocal legal aid in cases related to the temporary presence of Russian Army units on Moldovan territory.

The Moldovan and Russian delegations signed a few other documents to decide how they would schedule Russian troop withdrawal and the removal of Russian army property from Moldova.

They failed to agree on deadlines for the Russian troop withdrawal, but agreed to meet again in May.

Dniester's Shevtsov Views Relations, 14th Army

AU0904170594 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1300 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 9/4/1994—"We made a big mistake to believe in the summer of 1992 that the new 14th [Russian] Army commander [General Aleksandr Lebed] is a man who realizes the situation in the Republic," stated to magazine KOMMERSANT MOLDOVIY (BUSINESSMAN OF MOLDOVA) Vadim Shevtsov, chairman of the Dniester Republic's Security Committee. According to Shevtsov, Lebed is carrying out a task assigned to him by certain Russian political groups. He mentioned that Lebed did not stop the military conflict, but rather kept the 14th Army in barracks in a moment when he was most likely to take the Dniester side. "At first we had good relations with Lebed," stated Shevtsov, "but I gave them up when he proposed to me to take part in the dismissal of the [Dniester] government." He did not consider the Lebed-Bergman opposition to be a serious threat, but he called it destructive. In connection with the 14th Army's withdrawal Shevtsov said that if it takes place then "merely the army's general staff will leave the Dniester region taking its flag." Shevtsov also stated that after the PDAM [Democratic Agrarian Party of Moldova—ruling party] won the elections "the reunification of the [Dniester River] right and left banks" is likely to occur. "The proclamation of our Republic was not a goal in itself, but rather a strong need. In case it loses its actuality there will be no longer need for it. Life itself will make us be together." Moldova should provide strong guarantees established by the Constitution, said Shevtsov.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev: West Should Help Forward Russia's Reforms

LD0804112194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1018 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS and KAZTAG special correspondents]

[Text] Tokyo 8 April, TASS—The West "should help Russia in the process of reforms, democratisation and stabilisation, nor for remarks by concrete politicians," President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan told a news conference here on Friday. [sentence as received]

Both Moscow and all its neighbours in the east and west are interested in the success of Russian transformations, emphasised Nazarbayev, who is currentlty in Japan on an official visit.

Nazarbayev believes that there is nothing surprising in the complex processes taking place in the former Soviet Union. The majority of current problems have been brought about by the disintegration of the Soviet Union's economic system and break-up of the common ruble area, and should have been foreseen by politicians who were busy producing a Commonwealth of Independent States in Belovezhskaya Pushcha forest, he said.

Nazarbayev: 'Euro-Asian' Union Only 'Idea,' Not 'Proposal'

LD0804114294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0938 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo 8 April, KAZTAG-TASS—Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev announced today that his words about the creation of a Euro-Asian community similar to the European Union to replace the former Soviet Union was "just an idea aired and not a formal official proposal."

He was responding to a question from ITAR-TASS and KAZTAG correspondent at a press conference devoted to the results of his visit to Japan.

Nonetheless the president said he would works towards the materialization of his idea.

Nazarbayev said he had always been of the opinion that the present structure of the Commonwealth of Independent States, a supra-state within the framework of the dissolved Soviet Union is not exactly what is needed. At a meeting with Moscow University students during his recent visit to Russia he "voiced the idea deliberately."

"I now watch with interest the reaction of the leaders of the commonwealth member countries to my initiative," he said.

Nazarbayev did not say whether he is going to raise the question about the Euro-Asian union at the forthcoming commonwealth summit.

Advantages, Disadvantages of Eurasian Union Examined

NC1004070294 Yerevan SNARK in English 1028 GMT 10 Apr 94

[From the SNARK "Press Digest"]

[Text] Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev's idea about the Eurasian Union is published in "GA" [GOLOS ARMENII] under the heading "In Big-Policy Corridors".

In the authors' opinion, Boris Yeltsin accepts "coolly" the idea and "will never come forward with integrational banner."

Democrats stand behind Yeltsin, write the authors, are "the pragmatic people who do not conceal their view that Russia needs no poor relatives, while the former Soviet republics...only in a few years were ruined to such an extent that they reached and overrun in that sense many African states".

Ambiguous situation has been created when Yeltsin does not explicitly support Nazarbayev's idea, meanwhile, there may hide much danger in such a passivity.

It is this very ambiguity that creates the situation today when Russia on one hand stands as a leader of at least economic union reconstruction, while on the other hand no particular steps are made in this direction. Should however one other republic make conclusions from this tendency and try to solve its own destiny, Russia will immediately raise the brows and undertake the measures to punish the guilty, write "GA" analysts.

With reference to certain observers' opinion "GA" claims that even if the integrational processes go more intensively, one may speak at a first phase only of three Slavic states' union, plus possibly Kazakhstan. The paper observes that Nazarbayev's idea was as yet backed only by Kyrgyzstan, and the leaders of Transcaucasus preferred not to appear on that topic.

Nazarbayev Concerned Over Russian Population Leaving

LD0804221294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1213 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Golovnin]

[Text] Tokyo, 8 Apr—Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev today said he was most concerned that there was a danger that the Russian population might leave the country.

Replying to questions at a news conference in Tokyo, he said Kazakhstan does not have a refugees' problem yet. However, Nazarbayev said, "collapse of empires never goes quietly," and people are concerned since they can see bloodshed in Tajikistan and the Caucasus. Politicians, he said, should have foreseen this when they were signing the Belovezhskaya Pushcha agreement and when "against our will, the ruble zone was being destroyed."

An economic crisis can be observed throughout the former USSR at present, the quality of life worsens, and on the eve of the elections on 12 December many politicians had nothing better to do than "to use the Russian theme since there was nothing else they could talk about." However, concern for common people and politicizing are different matters, the president stressed.

The Russian-speaking population in Kazakhstan enjoys all the rights and even have opportunities not available in other countries on the territory of the former USSR. "Russians, Germans, and Ukrainians are our citizens, citizens of Kazakhstan, and I know it will be worse for them if they leave," Nazarbayev said.

Nazarbayev Completes Visit to Japan

LD0904144594 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1330 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Kazakhstani President Nursultan Nazarbayev has completed his visit to Japan. The main purpose of the visit was to obtain prearranged credits and to sell his country's resources to business circles. In his opinion, this has been achieved. As he told ITAR-TASS on his arrival on 6 April, Alma-Ata [Almaty] did not set any other tasks. Calling for cooperation in the future, Nursultan Nazarbayev, well known for his passion for hunting, realized that a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. That is why the securing of Japanese promises on credits for $220 million in aid of reforms and 12.88 trillion yen for the development of the infrastructure were described as the main successes of the visit.

Almaty, Moscow To Cooperate in Defense

LD1004152094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1322 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Kazakhstan's Deputy Foreign Minister Bulat Nurgaliyev told INTERFAX that the Kazakh-Russian treaty on friendship, cooperation and reciprocal aid, signed on 23 May 1992, made it possible for Russia to use army bases in Kazakhstan and for Kazakhstan—to use army bases in Russia.

According to Nurgaliyev, Article 4 of the Russian-Kazakh treaty provides for the joint use, in mutual interests and on mutual agreement, of army bases, shooting ranges and other defensive facilities on their territories, as well as the use of defensive facilities on each other's territory.

Now that it was ratified by both the Kazakh and Russian legislatures, the treaty prevailed over the national legislations. Nurgaliyev felt there was nothing new or controversial in Yeltsin's order on Russian military bases outside Russia. Nurgaliyev failed to see as unacceptable long-term strategic deployment of units under the Russian flag in Kazakhstan. If no Russian troops remained on Kazakh territory, he said, it would be more difficult for his republic to keep up its defensive potential.

In Nurgaliyev's view, Kazakhstan and Russia shared strategic interests in the field of defense and agreement would soon be reached on the Sary-Shagan and Emba missile ranges (near the Balkhash lake and the city of Aktyubinsk, respectively).

Kyrgyzstan

Government Meets To Discuss 'Crisis' in Industry

LD0904102194 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 2300 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] An extended meeting of the Kyrgyz Government took place in Bishkek yesterday. It was chaired by Prime Minister Dzhumagulov, and was attended by leaders of ministries, departments, and enterprises. The meeting discussed how to raise industry out of crisis.

The situation is very serious. In March, 65 enterprises ground to a halt. The production capacities of the remaining ones are half used. Warehouses have a surplus of goods in stock. Light industry alone is overstocked with goods to the value of 63.6 million soms and the level of indebtedness exceeds 700 million soms.

A resolution was adopted on this issue and steps have been specified aimed at lifting the country's industry out of crisis.

Bishkek Soviet Discusses Boosting Economic Reforms

LD0904124094 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 2300 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] A routine meeting of the city council [kenesh] of people's deputies was held today in Bishkek. The meeting examined the following issues:

1. Implementation of the program for socioeconomic reforms and anticrisis measures in Bishkek, which was adopted on 2 April 1993 at the 15th session of the Bishkek city council of people's deputies; amendments to the program in the light of the Kyrgyz Government's 24 April 1994 resolution No. 84 for furthering economic reforms and measures aimed at putting into practice a presidential decree of 10 April 1994; and urgent measures aimed at strengthening state and financial discipline.

2. Endorsement of a comprehensive program by the Bishkek city administration for the targeted social protection of citizens in 1994-95.

Tajikistan

Rakhmonov Interviewed on Islamabad Visit

PM0804095394 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 7 Apr 94 p 3

[Interview with Tajik Supreme Council Chairman Emomali Rakhmonov by RIA-NOVOSTI correspondent Andrey Pravov in Islamabad, under the "Diplomacy" rubric; date not given: "Emomali Rakhmonov: All Constructive Forces in the Region Are Interested in Peace...."—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] A delegation from the Republic of Tajikistan headed by Supreme Council Chairman Emomali Rakhmonov is visiting Pakistan in an official capacity. Here we offer our readers an interview he gave to Andrey Pravov, RIA-NOVOSTI's correspondent in Islamabad.

[Pravov] In your view, Mr. Chairman, what role could Pakistan play in resolving the issue of settling the situation in Tajikistan?

[Rakhmonov] We regard Pakistan as a friendly state. Islamabad is keen to offer assistance in resolving problems relating to a peace settlement in Tajikistan. We welcome any initiatives on this issue, which is of vital importance to us, wherever they originate—from the United Nations, Moscow, Tehran, or Islamabad. We are being offered help and we gratefully receive it.

Quite apart from anything else, this approach has an entirely pragmatic basis. Central Asia, and Tajikistan in particular, is an inexhaustible market for Pakistani products of every kind, including industrial goods. Pakistani businesspeople are also attracted here by the richness and diversity of our raw material resources. On the geographical level, moreover, Pakistan may be viewed as an extremely important transit route for shipment of goods from Central Asian states to the sea.

[Pravov] But, of course, in order to establish such extensive ties, surely you will have to settle the situation in Afghanistan first of all?

[Rakhmonov] This is true, of course. The continuing war in Afghanistan is an extremely serious problem for both our states. But, as far as a land transit route from Tajikistan to Pakistan and back is concerned, it may be realizable in the not too distant future. Basically, our two countries' borders are just 19 km apart in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast's Ishkashimskiy Rayon. The most likely route linking our two countries across Afghanistan is probably the so-called Vakhan Corridor. This is the gateway to the Karakoram triangle—the area where the borders of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India meet.

[Pravov] Do you think that land transit toward the Arabian Sea could be established even if hostilities continue?

[Rakhmonov] Afghanistan must resolve this problem in any case. If it does not, we are unlikely to see any trade or economic projects materializing in the region as a whole. Moreover, the conflict is also dangerous because the conflagration of war could spread across state borders, not just those of Tajikistan. It seems to me that Pakistan is just as well aware of this as we are.

[Pravov] However, from time to time we see hints in the press that certain circles in Pakistan are supporting the armed Tajik opposition in Afghanistan and are even encouraging its actions on the border. How do you view these reports?

[Rakhmonov] If such circles in Pakistan exist, they are irresponsible circles. Attacks by detachments of gunmen on our border posts represent a clear manifestation of terrorist activity. The problems that exist between various political forces in Tajikistan cannot be resolved by force of arms. We are relying on negotiations. This is one of the reasons why we came to Pakistan and I clearly note that we have found complete understanding here. Moreover, what is happening in Afghanistan cannot be approached with double standards. It is clear to everyone that the groupings of gunmen on this country's territory answer to nobody. They constitute a real danger not just for Tajikistan. This sort of behavior is dangerous for everyone in the region.

[Pravov] Mr. Chairman, since we have already spoken about the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border, I would like to dwell on this problem in more detail. Do you think it likely that the coming spring will bring new and more serious problems for the border posts guarding this border?

[Rakhmonov] Some time ago the armed opposition spoke about its intention to launch a spring offensive against our border. But it seems to me that their plans are unrealistic. The armed detachments of Tajik oppositionists do not have sufficient strength for this. And the groupings of Afghan mojahedin that support them will soon be embroiled in fighting one another—seizing territory and carving it up into spheres of influence. Moreover, our border, thanks to the common efforts of certain CIS countries, has been reliably reinforced; it is also being defended by military units from other former USSR republics, now independent states, which rightly understand that the Tajik-Afghan border remains our common border and that we must defend it together.

[Pravov] From time to time we see articles in the press indicating the dangers of Moscow getting "embroiled" in Tajikistan. It is alleged that in many ways Russia's actions are a repetition of the former USSR's mistakes in Afghanistan. Indeed, some points of similarity can already be seen. What do you think about these parallels?

[Rakhmonov] I see fundamental differences in the two situations. First and foremost, unlike the USSR and Afghanistan in the early 1980's, until quite recently Russia and Tajikistan were part of the same country, and we have extremely close ties to the Russian people. It is not just a matter of extremely close economic and cultural ties. There are many mixed marriages. There are a number of Russians living in Tajikistan. Our states have now gone their separate ways. But many Tajiks, and Russians too, continue to believe we are still part of a whole—whether it be with Russia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, or Uzbekistan. And all of us still have a common southern border—that of the former USSR. Another radical difference from the Afghan situation is this: If you remember, once Soviet troops had been sent into Afghanistan, neither Kabul nor Moscow showed any intention of meeting with the leaders of the mojahedin groupings or holding talks with them. They relied on force. However, we favor resolving our problems with opposing forces of a different political orientation by peaceful means. And in this respect Russia fully supports us.

[Pravov] Do you think the issue of finding a settlement to the situation in Tajikistan is making any headway?

[Rakhmonov] Undoubtedly. First and foremost, the need for a peace settlement in the country is accepted by practically all our neighbors. And they are prepared to help the Tajiks talk to one another. We realized this once again during our present visit to Pakistan. It is clear that today everyone in the region is keen to see peace in Tajikistan, and there is no military way of resolving our problems.

Quadrilateral Talks on Tajik Refugees Held

LD0804222094 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1700 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] At the initiative of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees [UNHCR], quadrilateral talks were held in Termez, Uzbekistan, attended by Tajikistan, Russia, Uzbekistan, and the Islamic State of Afghanistan. The speedy repatriation of Tajik refugees from Afghanistan were discussed at the talks.

Summing up the talks, Himmat Davlatov, deputy minister and head of the refugees affairs department of the Tajik Ministry of Labor and Employment, told the Khovar news agency that he and Deputy Foreign Minister Mirzoyev represented Tajikistan at the talks. Also present were Zainulobiddinov, consul of the Russian Federation in Mazar-e Sharif, Afghanistan; (?Irgachev), ambassador on special affairs at the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Uzbekistan; and General Sakhi Hashem, deputy to General Dostum and representative of northern regions of Afghanistan.

Participants in the talks unanimously decided that the social and political situation in Tajikistan is returning to normal and that refugees can return to their permanent places of residence without any problems.

The UNHCR representative at the talks said that Tajik refugees returning home from the Sakhi camp are being given three months of food rations. The same humanitarian assistance applies to refugees who returning home from Konduz Province in Afghanistan.

Post on Afghan Border Fired Upon; No Casualties

LD0704111994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1024 GMT 7 Apr 94

[By KHOVAR-TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe April 7 TASS—The Russian frontier check point Nizhnyy Pyandzh, through which refugees were coming from Afghanistan, was brought under missile fire at 09.20 [0520 GMT] today from the Afghan territory.

According to Lieutenant General Anatoliy Chechulin, commander of the frontier guard troops in Tajikistan, the fire came from a suburb of the port of Sherkhan-Bender, where some 1,000 Tajiks are concentrated. Missiles were fired from the control zone of the 54th and 55th Infantry Divisions of Afghanistan under the command of Kazi Kabir and Amir Chugai.

No casualties were reported. One of the missiles exploded 50 metres away from the check point.

Russian frontier guards did not open reply fire and did not respond to the provocation. According to General Chechulin, "The purpose of the action was to force us to open reply fire at the refugee bases and disrupt talks between the Tajik authorities and the opposition in Moscow."

Reinforcement—more artillery pieces and tanks—came to the check point.

Statement: Border Clashes Aimed at Disrupting Talks

LD0804140594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1045 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Continuing provocations at the Tajik-Afghan border are aimed at frustrating the inter-Tajik talks being held in Moscow. The statement was made by the chief of the information department of the Tajik Foreign Ministry Zafar Saidov at a briefing in Dushanbe.

He believes that the process of the return of Tajik refugees to their homeland is becoming steady. However, this does not suit the interests of the armed Tajik opposition and its militants are trying to frustrate the process. Saidov said that the check point of the Russian border guard troops, was shelled in the morning of April 7, from the vicinity of the port of Sherkhan (Afghanistan) where about 700 refugees are amassed waiting to return to their homeland.

Saidov said that the Russian border guards showed restraint and did not retaliate. This is another manifestation of who wants to restore peace in Tajikistan and who does not, he added.

Tajikistan Sends Official Note to Afghanistan on Incident

LD0804193394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1906 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Tajikistan has sent an official note to Afghanistan demanding that the recent incidents on the Tajik-Afghan border be investigated and the responsible be punished, a highly placed official in the Tajik Foreign Ministry, Zafar Saydov, said at a briefing in Dushanbe on Friday.

Saydov told journalists about the artillery shooting against the Russian border post in the Khatlon Region from Afghan territory on April 7. Moreover, he added that a Russian armored carrier had been blown up by an anti-tank mine. A border officer had been killed.

Saydov said he had reliable information proving that these actions had been planned before hand and had been carried out from Afghan territory. Over the first three months of this year several facilities, including the Russian border defenses have been subjected to fire from Afghan territory over forty times. Casualties and significant material damage have been reported.

The Tajik Foreign Ministry's note demanded that appropriate strict measures be used against illegal Tajik armed units acting on Afghan territory in order to halt their activities, Saydov stressed.

Gunmen Fire on Absent Foreign Minister's Home

NC1104105394 Paris AFP in English 1039 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Dushanbe, April 11 (AFP)—Gunmen using submachine guns fired Monday on the home here of Tajikistan's Foreign Minister Rashid Alimov, who is away in Moscow negotiating with the Central Asian state's Islamic-based opposition, authorities said. They said security forces cordoned off the district after the attack that did not claim any victims.

A senior ministry official said the minister had good reason to be concerned about safety, since influential sectors of the neo-communist regime objected to the parley with the opposition. Alimov was foremost among government members in following up a Russian suggestion for peace talks with the opposition, which has mounted raids from neighbouring Afghanistan since the neo-communist takeover in 1992.

Victims of the raids have included Tajikistan's deputy prime minister Muzabsho Nazarshoyev who was killed here March 11 and Alimov's brother-in-law who was murdered in January.

Turkmenistan

Government Stops Gas Deliveries to Azerbaijan 7 Apr

LD0804204094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1951 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Turkmenistan stopped the supply of its gas to Azerbaijan as of 10:00 of April 7. Until that time the rate of supply was 8 Mn cubic meters a day. Officials of the Azerigaz state-owned company told Interfax that the cause was that Azerbaijan had not pay the $50 Mn it owed for supplies in the first quarter of the year. That amount had to be paid with oil products, machinery and consumer goods. The Azeri government has not, however, set the export quotas.

Turkmenistan was supposed to supply to Azerbaijan 3 Bn cubic meters of gas evaluated as $240 Mn. Since the beginning of the year 956 Mn cubic meters have been supplied and partly paid for in kind.

Deliveries Partially Resumed 11 Apr

LD1104102894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0814 GMT 11 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Glazovskaya]

[Text] Ashgabat, 11 April—Turkmenistan has partially resumed the supply of gas to Azerbaijan in response to assurances from the Azerbaijani side that supplies of petroleum products, equipment for oilfields, and engineering products to Turkmenistan - envisaged under an agreement between the two countries - will be resumed within a ten-day period.

To date, Azerbaijan owes Turkmenistan 74 million dollars for gas supplies and is now being forced to take urgent steps to avoid the economic sanctions stipulated in the inter-governmental agreement.

Armenia

Government Issues Statement on Train Blast

LD0904180594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1748 GMT 9 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan April 9 TASS—A statement of the Armenian Government was made here today in connection with last night's explosion of the Tbilisi-Yerevan passenger train which claimed the lives of three people and wounded 15.

The explosion occurred when the train was passing the Georgian Marneuli region mainly populated by the Azeris. The statement says trains and engineering railroad facilities have been blasted 20 times and the gas pipeline - 12 times in the area since last year.

Acts of sabotage staged against Armenia on territory of that region and terrorist acts against civilians, this time against train passengers, leave no doubts as regards the aims and forces organizing the actions, stresses the document.

Violating all international legal norms, the Azeri side chose the Georgian region populated by Azeris for fulfilment of its goals in order to involve Armenia and Georgia in the conflict, says the statement. In the opinion of the Armenian side, international terrorism, which has grown into barbarity, must be stopped. At the same time, the Armenian Government will take all measures to ensure safety of its citizens and protect national interests. In that case all the responsibility for further aggravation of the situation will rest on the Azeri side, says the statement.

The Armenian Government hopes the Georgian authorities will take measures to ensure safety of communications to Armenia via Georgian territory.

President Ter-Petrosyan Leaves for Moscow

NC0804125794 Yerevan SNARK in English 0857 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Yerevan, April 8 (SNARK)—This morning Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan left Yerevan for Moscow. The visit is of private character. President's Press-Service refused to comment on the aims of the visit but told Levon Ter-Petrosyan will come back tonight.

Armenia Unconcerned by Russian Military Presence

LD1004145794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1322 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] The chairman off the Defense and Internal Affairs commission of the Armenian parliament Ghevork Bagdasaryan told an Interfax reporter that Armenia saw no reason for worry about Russian military presence because, in line with a bilateral treaty of 1992, a Russian Army Group, with headquarters in Yerevan, had already been deployed in the republic. According to Bagdasaryan, Armenia's borders with Iran and Turkey were controlled exclusively by Russian troops.

The treaty of 1992 was ratified by Moscow in 1993 but remains to be ratified by the Armenian parliament. A number of Armenian legislators would like to rewrite some parts off that document. They raise objections to the articles on preferential treatment for Russian servicemen and the creation of troop deployment areas in their republic.

Delegates Leave for Prague CSCE Group Meeting

NC0904120494 Yerevan SNARK in English 0745 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Yerevan-Stepanakert, April 9 (SNARK)—The delegations of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh will participate in the non-official consultations of the CSCE Minsk group. The consultations will devote to the regulation of the conflict. The consultations start in Prague April 11.

Arkadi Gukasyan, the Nagorno-Karabakh Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Masis Mailyan, Head of the International Organizations Department of the Nagorno-Karabakh Ministry of Foreign Affairs, left for Prague to participate in the consultations. Press-Center of the Armenian Foreign Affairs Department told SNARK the Armenian delegation at the Prague consultations will be headed by the deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Gerard Libaridyan.

Students Begin Strike, Protest Military Roundup

NC0804130794 Yerevan SNARK in English 0857 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Yerevan, April 8 (SNARK)—This morning the students of Armenian Engineering University, Yerevan Agricultural Institute and Yerevan Institute of National Economy started their strike.

They speak against force methods of call-up. During a period of last week the law-defending bodies were undertaking round-ups at the markets, subway, in the streets. Despite the protests the round-ups are going on.

Azerbaijan

Army Attacks Karabakh Front; Defenses Hold Firm

LD1004102194 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] According to the SNARK agency, part of the Azerbaijani Army, supported by tanks, this morning launched a large-scale offensive on the northern section of the Karabakh front.

Thus far, the Karabakh troops have succeeded in holding off the enemy's onslaught.

Air Raid on Stepanakert Kills 3

NC1104101094 Paris AFP in English 0950 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow, April 11 (AFP)—An Azerbaijani air raid on Stepanakert, main city of the Armenian-dominated Nagorno-Karabakh enclave, killed three people and wounded nine, all of them women and children, defence officials there said.

The attack came Sunday. A second attempted raid Monday was driven off by anti-aircraft fire, the officials said.

They said ground fighting was continuing in the northeast of the enclave, now in its sixth year of war, especially around Mardakert after Azerbaijani forces mounted an offensive.

Radio says Aliyev Visited Karabakh Conflict Zone

LD1004134994 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] INTERFAX reports, citing Baku television, that Azerbaijan President Heydar Aliyev has visited areas adjacent to the Karabakh conflict zone. In the Beylaganskiy [Beylagan] area, he held a meeting with commanders of Azerbaijan army units. Aliyev pointed out that it is the sacred duty of every serviceman to liberate territories which have been seized.

The report does not say when Heydar Aliyev visited the frontline rayons. However, reports on an offensive by Azerbaijani troops came in from the conflict zone on Sunday.

Proposal for 'Military Base' in Karabakh Rejected

NC0804143494 Istanbul YENI GUNAYDIN in Turkish 5 Apr 94 p 10

[Report by Ridvan Sapmaz]

[Text] Baku—The CIS Interparliamentary Assembly delegation, which is continuing contacts in the region to find a solution to the Azerbaijani-Armenian conflict, has resubmitted a proposal to set up 36 military garrisons in Karabakh and grant them the status of a military base. President Geydar Aliyev rejected the proposal.

According to a high-ranking official in the Azerbaijani president's office who wanted to remain anonymous, the package of proposals submitted by the delegation headed by Medetkan Sherimkulov, the chairman of the Kyrgyzstan Parliament, asks for military base status to be granted to the Russian peacekeeping force garrisons to be stationed in Karabakh. The Azerbaijani side opposes this.

Group Opposes Return of Russian Troops

NC0804190594 Baku TURAN in English 1145 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Baku (April 8) TURAN—"Democratic Congress is deeply concerned about return of Russian troops in Azerbaijan", says the statement distributed yesterday in Baku.

The statement says that the return of Russian troops will not help to settle the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict.

Democratic Congress considers that the priority in the settlement of the conflict should be given to the UNO and the CSCE organizations, but not to the efforts of one state. Democratic Congress mentions that Azerbaijan's conservative forces can make use of the return of Russian troops and it can lead to tragic consequences. Democratic Congress says that it will use all democratic means to prevent the return of Russian troops in Azerbaijan.

The statement was distributed due to resolution of Russian President concerning the creation of military bases of the Russian army on the territory of the CIS. Earlier Russian Defense Minister, Pavel Grachev, said that Russia intends to create one military base in Azerbaijan as well.

Democratic Congress was founded on March 23 by the opposition parties of the country. It includes Democratic Party, the Popular [People's] Front, "Ana Torpag" party and the party of Nation's Freedom.

Baku Wants To Negotiate Lease on Radar Station

LD1004150394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1322 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] A knowledgeable aide to Azeri President Heydar Aliyev said there were neither Russian troops nor Russian military facilities in Azerbaijan, so there was no reason for Baku to respond to President Yeltsin's order for the creation of Russian army bases in Commonwealth republics.

According to the source, discussion continued of issues related to the use of the Gabalinskaya radar station still manned by Russians. Discussion focused on the possible lease of the radar station in northern Azerbaijan to the Russian military. The source stressed that the Gabalinskaya radar station was not an army base but a military facility.

Country May Quit CIS, Fearing Russian Presence

MK0804104094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 8 Apr 94 p 4

[Report by Georgiy Bovt, Stanislav Tarasov in the "Russia in the Karabakh Settlement" column: "Azerbaijan May Leave the CIS"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] As a source in Geydar Aliyev's entourage told KOMMERSANT-DAILY yesterday, it is not ruled out that at the upcoming meeting of CIS leaders the republic's delegation will announce its withdrawal from the Commonwealth. The cause for this may be disagreements on issues which Moscow deems key to a settlement in Karabakh and in the region as a whole: about the deployment of Russian troops on the line disengaging the Armenians and the Azerbaijanis and on the closure of CIS external borders (notably between Azerbaijan and Iran). Yet today even the remnants of the semi-demolished Azeri opposition are at one with Aliyev's slogan, "No Russian troops in the republic!" Especially after the noisy hearings on "investigation into the intrusion of Soviet troops in Baku" in January 1990. Baku is even more negative on the plans to create Russian military bases abroad.

Meanwhile, speaking a recent conference of border troop commanders in the city of Odintsovo, Andrey Nikolayev, commander-in-chief of the Russian Border Guard Troops, expressed special concern over the situation at the Azerbaijan section of the CIS borders. In Moscow's opinion, Baku does not observe the provisions of the Commonwealth Declaration on Border Protection, while the republic has long turned into a "sieve" through which not only foreign spies but also drugs and arms are getting into Russia. At the present moment Baku is considering a draft bilateral agreement on border protection presented by Russia (it is to expand into a multilateral agreement, with the participation of Armenia and Georgia). In all likelihood, the draft, which provides for the presence of Russian troops in Azerbaijan, will be met with a decisive "sovereign 'no,'" timed to coincide with the CIS summit.

Baku may be just blackmailing Moscow on the chance that it will take fright and let up the pressure. Yet another option is also possible: Aliyev, faced with the threat of introduction of Russian troops, will have nothing more to lose. Moreover, his advanced age and deteriorating health (KOMMERSANT-DAILY has learned that for this reason he cannot come to the summit but instead will send along parliament speaker Rasul Guliyev, who is tipped in Baku as successor to the president), can move Aliyev to consider that it is time to start thinking of how to go down in history as a dedicated fighter for Azerbaijan's sovereignty.

'Source': Baku Has no Plans To Withdraw from CIS

LD1004164494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1515 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] All speculations about Azerbaijan's plans to withdraw from the CIS, to be announced during the CIS summit on April 15, are unfounded, an informed source in the Azerbaijani president staff told Interfax, commenting on an article in the Moscow newspaper Kommersant (April 8, 1994).

"The authors seem to be engaged in wishful thinking. In actual fact, Baku's policies differ cardinally form what is said in the article. We are planning to work for putting into operation the CIS mechanism of curbing external and internal aggressors," he said.

Gasanov Skeptical About Eurasian Union

NC0904201194 Baku TURAN in English 1628 GMT 9 Apr 94

["Azeri Foreign Minister Gasanov Sees Soviet Roots in Eurasian Union"—TURAN headline]

[Text] Baku (April 9) TURAN—"If the information spread by mass media is correct, then this alliance is not advantageous for Azerbaijan", said the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan, Gasan Gasanov during an interview with the newsdaily "MILLET".

He further stated that this notion is reminiscent of a return to the old Soviet structure. "Azerbaijan is an independent state and I support complete independence of Azerbaijan and I believe that having joined the CIS, the republic's sovereignty has not been defied,"said Gasanov.

In addition, Gasanov said that he does not exclude the possibility that Nazarbayev's proposal could have been misrepresented in the media, "Azerbaijan's official position in regard to the Eurasian notion can be put forth only after we have seen and reviewed Nazarbayev's proposal and idea."

As to whether the Russian army would return to Azerbaijan, Gasanov noted that "this decision may be solved only by the Parliament of Azerbaijan". According to Gasanov, "any politician who will deal with matters, alone, must be answerable to the people, constitution and the Parliament."

Turkmenistan Cuts Off Gas Upon Failure To Pay Up

NC0804194694 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] As we reported already, Turkmenistan stopped supplying gas to Azerbaijan as of 1130 yesterday.

[Begin correspondent Nermine Elikhanbeyli recording] After having received many warnings, Azerbaijan has finally faced the facts. Turkmenistan stopped the natural gas supply to our Republic because it wasn't paid for.

An Azerbaijani delegation visited Turkmenistan and concluded an interstate agreement in February this year envisaging the supply of 3 billion cubic meters of gas for 1994. During the first quarter of the year, some $50 million of natural gas was supplied. According to a clearing agreement, in exchange for the gas, our Republic was supposed to send tools used in the oil industry, fuel, cooling equipment condensers, and other products. But Azerbaijan failed to fulfill its obligation.

The state firm Azerigas reported that because the Republic's Council of Ministers has adopted no relevant decision, the firm is unable to obtain credit and the needed goods. The Council of Ministers Finance Department reported that a relevant draft bill is being prepared and will be submitted for the approval of the prime minister in the coming days.

We must realize that we must unfailingly abide by agreements if we want to be seen among the ranks of the respectable states. We want to note another aspect of this problem. In Baku alone, industry owes 2 billion manats and households 9 million manats to Azerigas. Failure to pay for the used gas is compounding this problem.

We would also like to highlight another factor: With its 60-million population, neighboring Turkey uses only 6 to 8 billion cubic meters of gas per year, whereas Azerbaijan's 7 million residents use between 12-14 billion cubic meters of gas. Apparently, no one can compete with our wastefulness. [end recording]

Police Protest Arrest of Chief for Theft

NC0904201994 Baku TURAN in English 1628 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Baku (April 9) TURAN—Yesterday approximately one hundred highway police picketed in front of the Presidential Palace. The policemen demanded the release of their chief, Tofik Guseynov, head of the Republican Highway Police. Tofik Guseynov, as was reported earlier, was arrested on April 7 after having been accused of stealing the sputnik antennae from "Amoco" oil company in 1992.

New 'Boz Gurd' Political Party Registered

NC0904202094 Baku TURAN in English 1628 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Baku (April 9) TURAN—Azerbaijan's Ministry of Justice registered a new political party, "Boz Gurd" (Gray Wolf). The Chairman of the Party, Bakhtiyar Akhmedov, said that the name of the party is an ancient Turkish symbol, which shows the unity and integrity of the state. "Our party has nothing in common with nationalist party functioning in Turkey". According to Akhmedov, "Boz Gurd" is an opposition party but does support a political struggle during wartime conditions.

"Boz Gurd" calls for new parliamentary elections in the country.

Budget Deficit Soares in 1993

NC0904202894 Baku TURAN in English 1628 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Baku (April 9) TURAN—It was announced yesterday in the Milli Majlis that in 1993 the State's budget deficit totalled 25.1 billion manats, despite the fact that it was not supposed to reach 11.7 billion manats.

Fikret Yusifov, Deputy Minister of Finance, stated that the reason for the high deficit is due to the negative development in the economy, the fall in productivity and heightened financial crisis.

The deputies from the PFA [People's Front of Azerbaijan], the Musavat party and the National Independence Party urged that the government accelerate activities in order to curb the inflation and balance prices in the country with the low salaries. Discussions about the deficit are to continue next week.

Georgia

Abkhazian Parliamentarian Discusses 'Progress'

NC0804183994 Yerevan SNARK in English 1156 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow, April 8 (SNARK)—The agreements signed in Moscow between Georgia and Abkhazia trace a course of progress in Georgian-Abkhazian conflict regulation, Vladislav Ardzinba, a chairman of the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet, told SNARK.

According to Ardzinba, Abkhazian side will do all the best to realize the agreements concluded in Moscow.

Shevardnadze Defends Right To Appoint Delegation

LD0804184694 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1600 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Today, the Georgian Parliament continued discussions and confirmation of nominees to the Cabinet of Ministers.

During the sitting, some representatives of the minority again put forward an issue of the authority given to Aleksandr Kavsadze, the head of state's personal envoy and chairman of the Committee for Human Rights and Ethnic Relations, who had signed a package of documents on the Abkhazian problem on behalf of the Georgian side. Head of state Eduard Shevardnadze took a stand and made a speech, during which he emphasized that while exercising special authority as a leader of the country, he had the right to take independent decisions on the candidatures to a delegation participating in the Abkhazian-Georgian talks.

Official Hopes Abkhazia Accord Will Be Honored

LD0804203994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1906 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Aleksandr Kavsadze, who chairs the Georgian parliament's Ethnic Relations and Human Rights Committee, expressed the hope that the Moscow agreements of April 4 on political settlement in Abkhazia and return of the refugees would be honored.

He told journalists in Tbilisi Friday, however, that unexpected events might take place if the security guarantees for the refugees were full implemented.

Kavsadze said that this agreement, like the earlier ones, could be wrecked but emphasized the need "to try to succeed jointly. You don't stop when you go in darkness, torch in hand, just because the torch may go out."

The Georgian parliament's Deputy Chairman Vakhtang Rcheulishvili said that future documents on Abkhazia had to be a detailed blueprint for the political structure of the autonomous republic. He called for equal rights to be given to all the citizens. "If the Georgian and Abkhazian populations are not convinced that these rights are guaranteed, there will be no peace," he emphasized.

Rcheulishvili said that those who had fought on the Abkhazian side, notably North Caucasian nationals, and seized houses belonging to Georgian families "are automatically regarded is illegal residents there."

Shevarnadze Takes Over Talks on Abkaz Settlement

LD0804210594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1828 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Georgian head of state Eduard Shevardnadze told parliament Friday that he would take over the talks on the settlement of the Abkhazian conflict. He called on the deputies not to weaken the position of the Georgian side in the talks by continuous fault finding. "If parliament thinks that my action is wrong, let us have a vote of confidence," he said. He also said that he would probably attend the CIS summit in Moscow next week.

The Georgian parliament did not approve Tamaz Kvachantiradze as education minister. Tedo Ninidze was approved as justice minister when Shevardnadze nominated him for a second time.

Georgian-Abkhazian Agreement Signed

LD0904203794 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1920 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Our correspondent Nikolay Kandiashvili has just reported on the telephone that the current stage of the Georgian-Abkhazian talks on the issue of the return of refugees ended in Sochi late this evening.

Nikolay Chelkov, head of the Russian delegation, said the talks were proceeding satisfactorily. Thanks to the efforts of the Russian side and the goodwill of all the participants, a quadrilateral agreement that will help resolve a number of problems connected with refugees returning to the places of their permanent abode was signed today.

Further Details

LD0904212494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2057 GMT 9 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Schegoleva]

[Text] Sochi April 10 TASS—The first meeting of the commission for voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons to Abkhazia ended late on Saturday night in Sochi. The meeting was held in accordance with the four-side agreement signed in Moscow on April 4. A statement adopted at the meeting stated the discussion of a program of the commission work, including the activities of experts on specific issues.

The sides agreed that a mission of the U.N. High Commission for Refugees [UNHCR] will come on a working visit to the Abkhazian Gali region and areas of temporary accommodation of displaced persons "in order to prepare the arrangements on the return of refugees and displaced persons". The visit will be held before the second meeting of the commission scheduled for April 26.

The sides confirmed their readiness to abide by principles and provisions of the Moscow agreement on voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons, proceeding from the fact that the return of refugees will be related to the deployment of peace-making forces. At the same time, the sides believes that preparations for the return of refugees and displaced persons must begin immediately.

The statement was signed by head of the Georgian State committee for Refugees Valeriy Vashakidze, first deputy chairman of the Abkhazian Council of Ministers Leonid Lakerbaya, head of the Russian Federal Migration Service Nikolay Chulkov and Anton Vervey on behalf of the office of the U.N. High Commission for Refugees.

Delegation To Discuss Deployment of UN Troops

LD0904164194 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1300 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Tbilisi 9 Apr—According to information acquired by IBERIA news agency, a Georgian delegation headed by the chairman of the interim committee on emergency situations, Jaba Ioseliani leaves for Geneva on 12 April to discuss issues related to the deployment of UN troops. The delegation will include Vladimir Chikovani, commander of the interior ministry troops, and professor Levan Aleksidze.

Abkhazia Blames Georgia for Attack on Kodor

LD0804210394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1828 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] The Abkhazian Defense Ministry told Interfax that Georgian troops had been subjecting the populated center of Upper Lata in the Kodor Cave to a second day of artillery fire. Casualties were reported among the civilian population and serious damage to several houses.

First Deputy Chairman of the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet, Stanislav Lakoba, said the UN, other international organizations and Russia must respond to Georgia's gross violations of the documents recently signed in Moscow.

Abkhazian Reconnaissance Group Said 'Eliminated'

LD1004113794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1322 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Georgian formations eliminated an Abkhazian reconnaissance group of five men in the Kodor Ravine, the Georgian Defense Ministry told Interfax. Georgia has not sustained any losses. According to the same source, helicopters evacuated about 60 civilians from the high-mountain villages of Abkhazian Svanetia (the Kodor Ravine).

Since fighting began in the Kodor Ravine last March, more than a thousand Georgians have abandoned their native villages. No information about the situation in the Kodor Ravine has arrived from the Abkhazian Defense Ministry yet.

Shevardnadze on IMF Recommendations

LD0804181594 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] According to the CONTACT news agency, Georgian head of state Eduard Shevardnadze met Muhammad Valavi, the head of the International Monetary Fund mission, and experts of the mission today, 8 April. The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Teimuraz Bassilia, Finance Minister Davit Iakobidze and National Bank President Nodar Javakhishvili.

In a way it was a summing-up meeting because the mission has completed the first, initial stage of its work in Georgia. Mission members have had meetings with members of the Georgian Government and representatives of various spheres. They have familiarized themselves with the economic situation in the country.

The head of the IMF mission said that the situation in Georgia is far more complicated than he had expected. He emphasized difficulties in the financial and credit spheres, difficulties due to the local and national budget deficit, and impetuous devaluation of coupons. In his opinion, steps to make the credit system stricter and to privatize the agricultural sector should be considered of primary importance because these are areas that are capable of creating the most positive effect.

There have been a lot of cases of hyperinflation in the world but the people have regarded this rationally. Normally, the population understands the difficulties of the country and makes them part of their life. The head of state said that we [the Georgian population] are well aware of the difficult situation in the country. The country's economy is paralyzed, and because of the combat operations carried out during the past two years transport is virtually useless. The Georgian head of state said that the Georgian party would certainly implement recommendations suggested by the IMF.

In conclusion, the head of the mission said that the current situation in Georgia is not hopeless and it is necessary that the first steps be taken. He also said he was happy that progress had been achieved at the Abkhazian-Georgian negotiations and hoped this would become a basis for the stabilization of the economic and political situation in Georgia.

Rebel Police Chief Demands Lucrative Job

LD0904141994 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1300 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Tbilisi 9 Apr—According to the '7dghe' [Seven Days] newspaper, on his resignation [Former Tbilisi Police Chief] Davit Zeikidze demanded that he should be appointed a manager of a tobacco factory or a head of a customs check-point. His request has been turned down. At present, Davit Zeikidze, together with his family, is in the village of Mukhrani and lives in his own house.

Explosion on Passenger Train Kills 3

LD0904081094 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0600 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] There was a powerful explosion at approximately 0400 hours today, 9 April, at Sadakhlo station in Marneuli, eastern Georgia, in one of the cars of a passenger train travelling from Tbilisi to Yerevan. Our correspondent Nikolay Mamulashvili has reported that according to preliminary figures, as a result of the blast three people were killed, a child was seriously injured, and three cars were burned out. Representatives of the Georgian Interior Ministry and special services have left for the scene of the incident.

Further Details

NC0904114694 Yerevan SNARK in English 0536 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Yerevan, April 9 (SNARK)—Three people are killed and one is seriously wounded as a result of the explosion under the last carriage of the Yerevan-Tbilisi passenger train. As SNARK was told in the information center of the Emergency Situations Department of the Republic of Armenia, the tragedy took place today at 3 a.m. during the customs examination of the train at Sadakhlo station (Georgia). The explosion brought about a fire that affected the adjacent carriages. Luckily, the passengers had managed to evacuate.

The contact wire at that part of the railway is damaged. It is already being reconstructed. The victims were taken to the hospital of the frontier town Noiemberian [spelling as received].

Investigators Leave for Scene

NC0904115294 Yerevan SNARK in English 0745 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Tbilisi, April 9 (SNARK)—The representatives of the Georgian authorities and a special investigating group of the Georgian Home Affairs Department left today for the Sadakhlo station where the Tbilisi-Yerevan train No. 675 was exploded at 3:00 a.m. The Head of the Transport Department of the Georgian National Security Department Colonel Ivan Kuldjanishvili told SNARK three passengers were killed and 5 wagons burnt as a result of explosion. The investigation has started.

TURAN Blames Ethnic Strife

NC0904200294 Baku TURAN in English 1628 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Baku (April 9) TURAN—Three people were killed when a blast ripped through a passenger train in Southern Georgia,on Saturday.

The train on its way from Tbilisi to the Armenian capital Yerevan, was standing in the station at the Azerbaijani border town Sadakhlo in the early hours of the morning when the explosion occurred. Two man and a woman died and a child was seriously injured in the blast, which sparked a blaze that destroyed three cars.

TURAN news agency was informed from the informed sources that it was likely the blast had been caused by a terrorist act. Several trains have been blown up by bombs and in the last five years in the Transcaucasus region, rent by ethnic conflicts.

Bomb Explodes in Office of SVOBODNAYA GRUZIA

LD0904120394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1145 GMT 9 Apr 94

[By GIA-ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Tbilisi April 9 TASS—An explosion took place at the editorial office of the SVOBODNAYA GRUZIA (FREE GEORGIA) newspaper today. According to preliminary information, criminals threw a home-made explosive device from the corridor into the room and ran away. No casualties were reported. Substantial damage was inflicted on the editorial office. The incident is being investigated.

Security Minister Discusses Current Problems

AU1104110494 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 24 Mar 94 pp 1,2

[Interview with Security Minister Igor Giorgadze by Davit Gvelesiani; place and date not given: "Give Me a Foothold and...."]

[Text] **Life today is so bad for the republic's population that nobody remembers if life has ever been good. They "console themselves" with the thought that the refugees and those people made homeless are in a worse position than themselves. A person could overcome the economic difficulties if it were not for the pillage and robbery, murders, terrorist acts, and so forth. One gets the impression that apparently nobody is any longer capable of establishing the peace and order that people long for. However, the republic's Security Minister Igor Giorgadze does not share this pessimistic view.**

[Gvelesiani] Batono [Georgian polite form of address] minister, you were in western Georgia for almost one month. What was the purpose of such a long trip?

[Giorgadze] In accordance with the instructions from the head of state, I was entrusted with forming a brigade and going to western Georgia in order to familiarize myself with current processes there and implement effective measures aimed at discharging the extremely serious crime situation.

From 20 February until 14 March, we were in Poti together with the operational brigade, which was carrying out extremely complex and labor-intensive work. Accompanying me were special units from the Ministry of Security that were conducting operations aimed at exposing and seeking reconciliation with armed groups. These were not punitive operations. We held talks with leaders of armed groups that fought on the side of the ex-president and that, until now, have been hiding in the forests. It is superfluous to speak about a general reconciliation since all those who have been robbing and intimidating the peaceful population have committed criminal offenses and therefore have to be brought to account before the law. The fact that there no longer exists the fear of the revival of "Zviadism" in its armed form can be viewed as the biggest achievement. We can confidently say today that the fear of a new civil war in western Georgia has been eliminated. I believe this is due to the work of employees of the Ministry of Security and others.

For 24 days we held talks with three armed groups. It is true that we were unable to achieve reconciliation with all of the 160 persons united in these groups. However, the talks are continuing and they require prudence, patience, and time. Certain members of the law enforcement bodies have themselves complicated our work; it has turned out that they have been demanding fairly large sums for "reconciliation" from those people who have been coming out of the forests with their submachine guns. In addition to weapons that have been surrendered voluntarily, we have managed to confiscate a large quantity of firearms. We have retrieved stolen trucks and equipment. However, this is the material side of the trip, which I consider to be less important. The main thing is that people have declared their trust in our department, and this has the greatest social and political importance.

[Gvelesiani] The incident that occurred between the heads of the two power ministries alarmed the entire republic [bomb blast at the Ministry of Security building on 25 December 1993, physical confrontations between security and defense ministry personnel, including ministers over loss of Abkhazia, disruption of signing of military agreement at Ashgabat CIS summit]. How has it ended?

[Giorgadze] Reason prevailed in the conflict that arose between me and the defense minister. The government commission has not yet completed its work. I believe it will establish who was wrong and who was right. For me, this question was of the greatest importance in order to prevent a further aggravation of the conflict. This was an unprecedented event in the history of the state. If the situation is not cleared up, it could be interpreted as an attempted coup. The damage suffered by the Ministry of Security is very great. It amounts to 18 billion coupons; two employees were seriously wounded and cars belonging to the ministry were destroyed during the explosion. I think we managed to avoid further complications arising from the conflict when armored vehicles and armed persons were brought out onto the street in order to seize the counterintelligence building. Everything ended in little bloodshed.

[Gvelesiani] Batono Igor, the violations in the banking and credit and financial system, the misappropriation of humanitarian aid, and the removal of raw materials of strategic importance from the state leads us to believe that a powerful mafia is operating in Georgia.

[Giorgadze] For almost two years now, there has been talk about violations in the credit and financial system; several commissions have been formed and are working; suspects have been arrested but, as can be seen, the major criminals have remained free, as not a single serious violation in the banking sphere has been cleared up.

On instructions from the head of state, our ministry became interested in this matter. On the basis of investigative materials, we arrested the vice-president of the National Bank. Given the reaction that this fact has caused among a number of senior officials, it can be supposed that we are dealing with serious violations whose successful investigation will expose all those who sacrificed the country's interests for their own gain.

The Ministry of Security has been entrusted with forming an independent economic service that will be able to control and examine violations in the economic and credit systems. However, at the moment, we do not have sufficient funds for this. It is certain that existing mafia groups have found support both in state bodies of administration and in executive power. Therefore, the struggle against them and their exposure will take a long time. This is a serious problem and the Ministry of Security alone will not be able to cope with it.

[Gvelesiani] Does the fear exist that Georgia will become a transit country for drugs?

[Giorgadze] Unfortunately, this process is already under way and the international narcotics business, which trades in illegal arms and narcotic substances, is interested in our territory. The point is that, whereas before, the narcotics route from Asia to Europe bypassed the USSR, it now runs as follows: eastern Asia—Pakistan—Afghanistan—Central Asia—Azerbaijan—Georgia. Therefore, Georgia unhesitatingly took part in the international conference held in Istanbul on the initiative of the Black Sea countries and devoted to the problems of the struggle against the narcotics business and terrorism. Work in this direction is intensively under way. My deputy and a special group are currently in Bucharest, where a meeting of special services is continuing at which the latest means and methods in the struggle against the drugs mafia are being perfected. Incidentally, a sizable amount of drugs has already been smuggled via Georgia to Europe. The absence of borders and strict customs controls and appropriate legislation are complicating our work very much.

[Gvelesiani] The view is being spread here and supported by high-ranking officials in the power structures that Georgia is unable to restore order by itself and, therefore, is calling on an external force for help.

[Giorgadze] I do not share such a view. Georgia can certainly establish order in its own land. This is borne out by the recent intensification of the struggle against the criminal world and the subsequent positive results that have been achieved.

The Ministry of Security just like its predecessor—the Intelligence and Information Bureau, was not tasked with acting upon information received. One got the impression that we could only obtain information while some "distant uncle" would establish order for us. Now, the situation is different. Those special divisions that make up the power structures of the Ministry of Security are well trained and well disciplined and composed of young men trained to carry out special operations; I believe it is possible to train similar groups in the Ministry of Internal Affairs as well. In my view, the power structures currently existing in the Ministry of Security should also exist in the future in Georgian military formations in the form of special subunits. The correct selection of professional cadres will enable us to form and train such special subunits in all the power ministries that will be able to restore order in the country in the shortest period of time. We need more than just the desire to do this. We need to create the appropriate legislation, material and technical base, and means for this. Then, we will no longer be reliant on external help but will be able to act entirely on our own.

[Gvelesiani] When will the security service's archives be made public?

[Giorgadze] After Gamsakhurdia became head of state, "interest" in the security service's archives exceeded all bounds. There were gross violations of the law. I believe we should now form a parliamentary commission that will investigate and determine how unique material, which was stored for tens of years in the security service, was destroyed. Those documents, which presented in an "unembellished" form the activities of persons in the government, were removed and destroyed. Certain unconscientious employees in the security service have used archive materials to build their political careers and there were also cases of archive materials being sold. There occurred a series of serious violations that have to be exposed as a matter of urgency.

The archives are now again in a sorrowful state; we do not have the appropriate storage cases and repository that ensures the protection of unique materials. As can be seen, we are unable to appreciate what the Ministry of Security archives mean for the country's security. There is the experience of other countries where, after a certain period of time has elapsed, secret documents become available to the public but only if they do not compromise the interests of the state. In Great Britain, when the time arrived to make public a certain number of documents, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher opposed this and postponed this measure for, I think, 30 years as the publication of this material did not accord with the country's interests.

One can say without exaggeration that certain materials in our archives could cause another civil war in Georgia. Therefore, we should be very careful with archive materials. I would like to ask Parliament: True, there are many very serious problems to be resolved in the country, but a legislative base should be elaborated in the shortest period of time that would enable the Ministry of Security and the entire state security system to function normally. The existence of laws would settle many questions and also strictly define the problem of the safekeeping of materials in the archives.

[Gvelesiani] Batono minister, the public is alarmed by the terrorist acts that are being aimed at certain individuals or formations. While pointing out the high professional level of the crimes that have been committed, the leaders of political parties are clearly pointing the finger at the Ministry of Security. The inability to solve these crimes strengthens suspicions....

[Giorgadze] It is naive to think about an improvement in the criminal situation when there is a huge amount of weapons and explosive materials in the hands of the population; against the background of the existing chaos in the banking system, we are now facing the consequences of the wave of violence perpetrated by persons who have become unbelievably rich as a result of illegal commercial operations and mafia clans. Groups that have been deceived or swindled are settling scores with one another, dividing spheres of influence, are often unable to agree with one another.... Nothing new or special is happening in Georgia. This is a characteristic feature of any capitalist system and is being strengthened here with the formation of a free market economy.

As for those leaders of political parties who often travel abroad, they know very well that the problem of terrorism exists on a world scale and, in a number of countries, it has been raised to the rank of state policy. Therefore, such a naive approach to a most important question is embarrassing, as is heaping blame on the security service.

You often hear the security service being reproached on account of its "inaction"—not a single terrorist crime has been solved. I am ready to deliver a report on the work carried out to the relevant commission. Provided you do not claim that I am trying to justify myself, I would like to give you a few examples concerning terrorist acts carried out in Great Britain. Between 20 December 1993 and 29 January of this year (in London) and between 15 December 1993 and 4 February of this year in Northern Ireland, more than 20 explosions took place, causing damage to buildings, the subway, houses, and shopping centers. There were victims among the law-abiding population. Not one of these crimes has been solved! It is also significant that this has been taking place in a democratic country that has a 400-year-old parliamentary tradition, the strongest investigative and special services in the world, and a police force equipped with the most modern equipment.

In our conditions, it is particularly difficult to solve terrorist crimes since, apart from our not having the necessary equipment, our work is being complicated by other factors. I will give you some concrete facts. A terrorist act was committed against the "Mkhedrioni" ["Horsemen"—a legally sanctioned armed formation recently incorporated into the Rescue Corps] leaders Zaza Vepkhvadze and Gia Svanadze. Our investigators were not permitted onto the scene of the crime; following an explosion in Rustavi, Temur Talakhadze, the leader of the "Mkhedrioni" branch in Rustavi, was killed. The scene of the crime was sealed off and we were not allowed there either. We were granted access several hours after the event but could not find any incriminating materials or other material evidence. The same thing happened following the explosion at [Deputy Defense Minister] Nikoloz Kekelidze's apartment. Ministry of Security employees were only allowed in after the second explosion (at that time the heads of the Ministry of Defense were examining the scene of the crime). We were able to set about our work some 12 hours after the terrorist act had been committed. Naturally, we found that all evidence had again been destroyed and the scene of the crime had been tidied up.

In spite of the aforementioned or other objective or subjective reasons, the greater part of these crimes are in the process of being solved. At the moment I cannot say any more about this. However, we hope that the investigations will soon be over and the criminals will be brought to justice. Therefore, it is possible to make complaints provided they have some substance. We will accept any kind of criticism but neither the Ministry of Security nor any self-respecting professional will accept something that is undeserved.

[Gvelesiani] Batono minister, to what extent is it possible to forecast the next terrorist act?

[Giorgadze] It is possible to forecast the targets of terrorist acts but I believe that making such forecasts is an unenviable and ignoble activity. At the same time, it is highly risky as the opposing side can use these forecasts to their advantage.

It is possible that such acts will continue. We know of high-ranking officials who accumulated vast wealth during the [civil] war. It is expected that they will redistribute spheres of influence, which does not exclude the use of violent methods. I am convinced that these persons, who, for several days were locked up, hungry and thirsty, in "safes," will definitely try to pay their opponents back for this. Yes, there have been such cases. Those who reckon that the other side has cheated them of thousands or millions of dollars, will try to retrieve these huge sums by violent means. In clarifying their relations, neither side will refrain from shedding blood.

[Gvelesiani] Are these terrorist acts perhaps politically motivated?

[Giorgadze] This also cannot be excluded as there have been cases of terrorist acts committed against various political parties. There have been explosions at some of their headquarters; buildings have been damaged; there have been no victims although this has possibly been due to pure chance. Incidentally, a political battle implies the use of terrorist methods—in an uncivilized society, of course.

I have often said and emphasize once more: In order to establish order in the country and put a halt to the wave of violence perpetrated by criminal bands, the power ministries must have the very latest equipment and, in order to train specialists, the state must spend sizable sums of money. Otherwise, no one will put a stop to the anarchy and disorder. We will not be able to restore the economy without the involvement of foreign partners who, precisely on account of the criminal situation, are refraining from making any investments.

Therefore, I ask the head of state, Parliament, the government, and the republic's population to invest immediately the necessary funds into strengthening the Ministry of Security.

Our salvation is in our own hands!

Chief: Army To Have 'Adequate Fighting Capacity'

LD0804190594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1813 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Georgia's Chief-of-General Staff General Guram Nikolaishvili says that regardless of all its problems that within two or three years, Georgia will have an army with an adequate fighting capacity.

In Friday's appearance on Georgian television Nikolaishvili reported good progress in the efforts to build a national army. The top executives of the Georgian Defense Ministry have drafted and approved a national military doctrine which will be very soon presented for endorsement to the Georgian parliament.

According to Nikolaishvili, the Georgian armed forces number up to 20,000 men. Instead of calling up reserves, the Georgian army practices regular army drafts. Nikolaishvili said up to 300,000 men in the 18 to 25 age bracket had never served in the army. Up to ten army bases were under construction in the republic, he added.

The army's one big problem was the officers. Nikolaishvili explained it by financial limitations. He said a Georgian army officer earned an equivalent of 4,000 Russian Rubles a month.

Police Disperses Gamsakhurdia Supporter Rally

LD0904133594 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1300 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Tbilisi 9 April—An Iberia news agency correspondent reports that representatives of the Round Table political bloc [supporters of former President Zviad Gamsakhurdia] gathered near the Philharmonic Concert Hall today at 1300 hours and attempted to hold an unauthorized rally. The police dispersed the gathered. Several people were arrested. Some of the ralliers marched peacefully towards Rustaveli Prospekt to lay flowers at the memorial to those killed on 9 April [day in 1989 Soviet troops dispersed a peaceful rally killing 20 people]. By 1400 hours about 2,000 supporters of the former Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia approached the House of Government with the intention of holding a rally there. The area in front of the Government House was guarded by some 500 policemen led by Gela Lanchava.

The ralliers then went to the Mtatsminda Pantheon and paid homage to Merab Kostava.

Social-Democrats Support Nazarbayev Proposal

LD0904113394 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1045 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Tbilisi 8 Apr—Iberia news agency received a statement from the political council of the Georgian Social-Democratic Party. The statement says:

"The political council of the Georgian Social-Democratic Party welcomes and supports Kazakhstani President Nursultan Nazarbayev's proposition that a Euro-Asian union be established, an idea which has long been under consideration within political circles of the states of the former Soviet Union."

Kazimirov in Yerevan To Present Initiatives

NC0804184194 Baku TURAN in English 1145 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Baku (April 8) TURAN: Today the Russia President's envoy Vladimir Kazimirov arrived in Yerevan in order to conduct a consultation on the peaceful settlement of Azeri-Armenian conflict.

The informed sources announced to TURAN that Kazimirov will present the leadership of Armenia some initiatives, which prior was presented to the Azeri leadership during his visit to Baku on April 6.

The consultation with the participance of all the sides of conflict will be continued in Prague on April 11-15.

Parliament on Georgian-Abkhazian Friendship

NC0804181994 Yerevan SNARK in English 1156 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow, April 8 (SNARK)—Debates between deputies of the Georgian Parliament finished with the consensus—the majority of deputies estimated the Moscow negotiations and the concluded agreements as positive. The opposition annulled the question of the agreements dissolution, Georgian Embassy in Moscow told SNARK.

Press-Service of the Georgian Parliament issued the statement which speaks for the necessity of the friendship between Georgians and Abkhazians.

Estonia

Withdrawal Linking With Social Issues Deplored

LD0804141294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1045 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Estonia deplores the linkage by Russia of its troop withdrawal by August 31 with a decision that would guarantee the rights of 11,500 military pensioners and ethnic Russians in that Baltic republic. This is said in a statement, released in Tallinn by the President Lennart Meri's Chancellory, and signed by him as well as by the Premier Mart Laar and the State Assembly's Chairman Yulo Nugis.

Moscow declared at the last round of bilateral talks that it would keep the date for the pullout of troops from Estonia blank until Tallinn ensured residence and other social guarantees for the retired Russian army officers and other ethnic Russians in Estonia.

Nonetheless, as the statement says, Estonia "is ready to continue negotiations in good faith to surmount all difficulties."

"At the same time, Estonia regards the Russian president's instruction of April 5 on the creation of military bases in CIS and Latvia as going back on earlier pledges, international accords and principles," says the statement.

Estonia's representatives abroad "have been instructed to remind Russia at every opportunity of its international pledge to move its troops out of Estonia and Latvia by August 31 quickly and orderly, as has been repeatedly stressed in international accords," the document notes.

Envoy to Russia on Withdrawal Talks

LD0804181794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1726 GMT 8 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Moscow April 8 TASS—"We are not able to boost Russian troops withdrawal from Estonia. This problem should be settled through negotiations," Estonian Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Yuri Kahn told a news conference here today.

In his words, the Russian delegation to the bilateral negotiations now wants to settle the withdrawal and military pensioner problems in one treaty while the Estonian side favors separate solution of these problems.

"Estonia and Russia are looking for solutions. The problem of Russian troops withdrawal from Estonian territory remains the most serious," said Kahn. "In our opinion, the troops withdrawal treaty is ready for signing, but there are certain conditions put by Russia that hamper the process".

"We understand the need for demarcation of the Russian-Estonian border. Estonia has not laid any territorial claims on Russia and it will hardly lay ones. The border line issue should be settled in correspondence to international norms of the Estonian-Russian treaty of 1920," stressed the ambassador.

In his opinion, the Russian side is determined to build and equip the state border with Estonia.

Kahn hopes the upcoming meeting of the chairmen of the Russian and Estonian parliament committees for international affairs will help to find a way out from the complicated situation.

Country Ready to Continue Talks

MK0904093094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 9 Apr 94 p 2

[Report by Dmitriy Zhdannikov in the "Diplomacy" column: Estonia Still Hopes for a Summit"]

[Text] "The incident involving the killing of a Russian serviceman on the border with Estonia shows once again the need to resolve questions concerned with the border regime and ensuring provisions to border areas," Juri Kahn, Estonia's ambassador to the Russian Federation, said in an interview with SEGODNYA. Meanwhile, according to information in SEGODNYA's possession, Russia is ready to go ahead with a unilateral demarcation of its borders in the northwest.

In spite of the failure of the latest, 18th, round of talks, when Russia finally refused to pull out its troops before 31 August 1994, stating that this time frame is unrealistic because the question of ensuring the rights of military retirees and pensioners has not been settled yet, Ambassador Kahn stressed that Estonia is ready to continue the negotiations at the level of interstate delegations but only if the Russian Federation observes the international obligations it has assumed. "We believe that many problems could be resolved by a summit of Presidents Yeltsin and Meri. The Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry, however, with a persistence we cannot understand, rejects the idea of a summit, saying that it is possible only after the entire package of documents has been signed."

True, Mr. Kahn noted, such meetings are becoming less and less probable, a case in point being the refusal by Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis to visit Moscow on 20 April in response to President Yeltsin's decision to create military bases on the territory of the CIS and Latvia.

Laar Begins 2-Day Visit to Norway 8 Apr

WS0804134394 Tallinn BNS in English 1022 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 08, BNS—Prime Minister Mart Laar began Friday [8 April] morning a two-day working visit to Norway, the government press service told BNS.

Laar will have meetings with Norwegian Premier Gro Harlem Brundtland and the country's export council. He is also scheduled to attend a Conservative Party conference in Bergen.

The Estonian premier is accompanied by his aide Jaan Tross.

Holds Talks With Counterpart

WS0804184394 Tallinn ETA in English 1755 GMT 8 Apr 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Tallinn, April 8—Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar started, Friday [8 April] morning, a working visit to Norway, where he met today the Prime Minister of Norway Gro Harlem Brundtland.

The two premiers discussed Estonian-Norwegian cooperation, Estonian-Russian inter-state negotiations, integration of the Baltic states to Europe, Norway's negotiations to join the European Union, Norway's support to Estonia in developing the Partnership for Peace programme and to foundation of the Baltic peacekeeping battalion and construction of a joint Baltic Sea states gas pipeline.

The heads of the governments expressed their satisfaction as to strengthening of ties between Estonia and Norway, which is illustrated by the fact that the trade between Estonia and Norway in the first two months of this year constituted already one third of the trade of the last year.

Laar is also to hold talks in the Norwegian Export Council and he is to attend Norwegian Conservative Party Conference in Bergen. Laar is accompanied by his aide Jaan Tross and is to return on April 10.

Dismantling of Russian Navy Nuclear Reactors Set

LD0804194794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1906 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Estonia is ready to start the dismantling of the nuclear reactors belonging to the Russian Navy Education Center in the Estonian city of Paldiski, Advisor from the Estonian Foreign Ministry and head of the military working group for negotiations with Russia Agu Tiiman announced at a press conference today.

Tiiman stressed that the dismantling could be completed within three years. Earlier, the Russian party had proposed that the work be completed by 1999.

The first stage of the dismantling, considered the most dangerous, consists of the withdrawal of fuel bars and can be started in the next few days, Tiiman said. This stage is expected to be finished before June 31, 1994. During the second stage Russian specialists will withdraw the secret technical equipment of the reactors after which the last stage begins. It consists of the dismantling of the walls of the reactors.

Tiiman spoke against temporary or permanent conservation of the reactors' bodies in Estonia. He pointed out that all of them must be withdrawn to Russia.

In accordance with the Russian-Estonian agreements Russia will carry out all the work on dismantling and Estonia will be responsible for security in the city and its outskirts and will participate in possible emergency works. Russian representatives at the international conference in Stockholm earlier this year agreed to let foreign observers to the last stage of the work.

Defense Forces Main Staff Chief To Resign Soon

MK0804081094 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 8 Apr 94 p 2

[Vladimir Urban, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent, report from Tallinn under the "In Brief" rubric: "Estonian Defense Forces Main Staff Chief To Resign"]

[Text] This was announced by the Main Staff's press service. Colonel Ants Laaneots has occupied this post since the end of 1991; earlier he served in the Soviet Army and was a city military commissar in Tartu.

No reasons for Laaneots' resignation have been reported. It has only transpired that his term as Main Staff chief will expire on 18 April and that he has submitted the separation request voluntarily. Laaneots has already turned his business over to his deputy, Colonel Arvo Sirel, chief of the operational department, who is also a former Soviet Army officer.

Government Accepts Resignation

WS0804155194 Tallinn BNS in English 1407 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Tallinn, Apr 08, BNS—The Estonian government on Thursday [7 April] accepted the resignation of Col. Ants Laaneots, the chief of the country's defense forces' general staff. The Cabinet expressed hope that the Estonian Defense Forces "will not be deprived" of Laaneots' services.

Laaneots tendered his resignation March 24 and Defense Forces chief, Maj. Gen. Aleksander Einseln accepted it a week later.

President Lennart Meri will make the final decision on Laaneots' resignation. [passage omitted]

The Tallinn-based EESTI EKSPRESS weekly claims in its latest issue that many of Laaneots' fellow officers and superiors in the Soviet Army were not aware that his father in 1944 fought against Russians in a border guard regiment formed by the Germans and after the Red

Army invaded Estonia joined the so-called "forest brethren" (partisans) in the southwest Estonian Parnu region.

New Union Vows To Fight 'Tyranny,' 'Oppression'

LD0904215694 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 2055 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] The Union of Russian Federation Citizens of Tallinn [Soyuz Rossiyskikh Grazhdan Tallinna] was formalized on 9 April at an inaugural assembly in the Estonian capital. Yuriy Kotenkov, one of the founding members, told an RIA correspondent that the union intends to defend the rights, freedom, and sovereignty of the 400,000 Russians in the republic. As a last resort to accomplish their goal, Kotenkov said, the organization reserves the right to rise up in revolt against tyranny and oppression.

Price Index Rise Exceeds Predictions

WS0804155294 Tallinn BNS in English 1407 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 08, BNS—The Estonian Statistics Department reports that the consumer price index [CPI] rose by 8.9 percent in March compared to the previous month. The figure, which is one of the biggest in the post-currency reform period, exceeded even the most pessimistic forecasts.

Goods and services went up by 5.2 percent in January and by 5.5 percent in February.

Viktoria Trasanov, head of the Statistics Department's price statistics service, told BNS the increase in the CPI is first and foremost attributable to the rising of rents and communal transport and telephone tariffs.

Services went up by 15.5 percent in March and goods, by 5.3 percent. Food prices rose by 7.5 percent and manufactured goods, by 1.5 percent. Goods and services cost last month 50.5 percent more than in March 1993.

Housing expenditures grew last month the most, by 18.5 percent. Milk and eggs rose by 13.3 percent; transport and communications cost 9.7 percent more; meat and fish went up by 8.2 percent; and flour and cereals, as well as fruit and vegetables, rose by 8 percent. Outlays on health dropped by a negligible 1.1 percent.

The March inflation rate exceeded the Bank of Estonia forecasts of a rise of up to 5.68 percent. Trasanov said the central bank built its forecast on an up to 10-percent increase in rents, but actually the rents redoubled early in the month.

Inflation hit record high in Estonia in November 1992, when it reached 9.5 percent.

Latvia

Ulmanis Refuses To Sign Withdrawal Documents

LD0804125794 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1200 GMT 8 Apr 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer Aleksandr Sapozhnikov] Latvian President Ulmanis, speaking on national radio, said that under the present circumstances, he was not ready to sign the Latvian-Russian agreements on conditions for the pullout of [Russian] troops. He added that he did not consider it possible to sign those documents on the agreed date of 20 April.

Bases Edict Prompts Ulmanis To Postpone Trip

LD0804154594 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1400 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Latvian State President Guntis Ulmanis, speaking today at the meeting of heads of local authorities at Kuldiga, announced that he has put off for an indefinite period the visit to Russia he planned to make on 20 April. During the visit he was to meet the Russian president and possibly sign the agreements initialled by Latvia and Russia. Ulmanis explained that the reason for this decision was the edict by Russian President Boris Yeltsin on the creation of military bases in the CIS states and Latvia. Moreover, immediately after receiving the report, Ulmanis had proposed a talk with the Russian president. Yet he has still not received a reply. Ulmanis also has been trying unsuccessfully for two days to talk to Leonid Mayorov, commander of the Russian Army's Northwestern Group of Forces. Ulmanis has the impression that Mayorov is deliberately avoiding talking. Ulmanis does not rule out the possibility that Yeltsin's decree might have come about in connection with a power struggle in Russia and disagreements between the Foreign Ministry and military corps in Russia. Ulmanis is also planning to present a proposal to the presidium of the Saeima on Saturday to cancel the extraordinary plenary session on 15 April, in the belief that at present there is no sense in discussing powers to sign the initialled agreements because in such a situation as this the signing of the agreements is not possible.

Official: Policy Enforces Russian Influence

WS0804134494 Tallinn BNS in English 1022 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Riga, Apr 07, BNS—The current Latvian foreign policy promotes the strengthening of Russia's influence in Latvia, Saeima (parliament) Deputy Speaker Andrejs Krastins said Thursday [8 April] at a conference in the Academy of Science.

The initialed agreements on troop withdrawal is only one of the examples of the tendency, Krastins said.

The world community is unlikely to help Latvia substantially if Russia uses military force against it and this will be a result of the present Latvian foreign policy, Krastins noted. To prevent this, Latvia should distance itself from Russia both economically and politically because "Russia is our sole potential enemy," Krastins said. Unfortunately, Krastins said, many Latvian politicians fail to understand this truth partly because of inertia and party because of exaggerated liberalism.

Krastins described the initialed Latvian-Russian agreements as intentions of the ruling coalition to attribute all merits for Russian troop withdrawal to itself.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin's decision to build military bases in the CIS and Latvia and the following excuses with "a technical error" stand "just another ordinary sample" of Russia's foreign policy, Krastins said.

On the other hand, the incident convinced part of the Latvian community that Latvia needs the troop withdrawal agreement with Russia to avert the setup of Russian bases here, Krastins said.

The Skrunda radar station, however, is and will remain a military base though there are attempts to call it differently, Krastins added.

Krastins summed up his address saying that Latvia vitally needs to integrate into Europe.

Krastins is one of the leaders in the oppositionary Latvian National Independence Movement.

The meeting was organized by the Baltic Center for Strategic Studies and the Academy of Sciences.

National Independence Movement Discusses Talks

WS0804154894 Riga DIENA in Latvian 28 Mar 94 p 1

[Article by Eriks Matulis: "LNNK Formulates Demands in Talks with Russia"]

[Text] Riga, 26 Mar—At a board meeting of the Movement for Latvian National Independence [LNNK] on Saturday [26 March], a mutual resolution of the LNNK and its parliamentary faction was accepted on "interstate negotiations with Russia." The resolution states that the agreements with Russia were initialed "contrary to the CSCE declaration and the UN resolution on complete and unconditional troop withdrawal." LNNK is of the opinion that initialing these agreements means including Latvia in the sphere of Russian influence, as well as endangering Latvia's sovereignty and the Latvian nation's possibilities to survive. The resolution reads: "By accepting the initialed agreements, Latvia does not resolve the problems connected with troop withdrawal, because Russian Army units remain in Skrunda, as well as in Estonia and Abrene."

Therefore, the LNNK board asks the president not to sign the agreements. In addition, the Saeima [parliament] is requested to pass—in the first place—a law on the status of foreigners and stateless people, as well as appoint a new delegation to the talks with Russia, which would resolve not only the problem of troop withdrawal, but also such issues as repatriation, emigration, the return of Abrene to Latvia, and compensation for Latvia from Russia, as the legal heir to the USSR.

The resolution also requests that the Saeima accept the submitted draft law on a popular referendum, to which a question should be added concerning citizens' opinions on the issue of granting guarantees of social protection to Russian military pensioners.

If the Saeima does not satisfy these demands, LNNK will propose a popular ballot for special parliamentary elections.

At the LNNK board meeting, candidates for the Riga municipal authorities elections were also chosen. In all, there were 61 candidates confirmed. Their names were not conveyed to the press. As DIENA was told by LNNK Board Member Mirdza Vitola, the decision was not yet final.

President Questions Need To Debate Agreement

WS0804200494 Tallinn BNS in English 1714 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Riga, Apr 08, BNS—President Guntis Ulmanis questions the necessity for the April 15 extraordinary session of the country's parliament which had to decide on the signature of the Latvian-Russian troop withdrawal agreement.

Ulmanis pledged to make up his mind in few days and inform the parliament presidium about his decision.

Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs claims that the plenary session would be "useless." In his opinion, Russian President Boris Yeltsin's April 5 decree on the setup of military bases was "a deliberate action" that excludes the option of immediate signature of the initialed agreement.

As reported, the extraordinary plenary session was proposed by Ulmanis and Birkavs.

Ulmanis also told BNS he was not satisfied with the apologies by Russian Ambassador Aleksandr Rannikh who called the incident as "a technical mistake."

In Ulmanis' words, rush decisions should be avoided because the situation in Latvia is highly complicated. "I need at least 24 hours to reason it all," he said.

Birkavs, UN Secretary General Discuss Withdrawal

LD0904173794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1722 GMT 9 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Konstantin Pribytkov]

[Text] Geneva April 9 TASS—U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali met on Saturday Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs at his request to discuss Russian troops withdrawal and guarantees of national minorities' rights in Latvia.

After the 45-minute meeting Birkavs told an ITAR-TASS correspondent that his visit to Geneva was caused by a "new situation" called forth by the April 5 instruction by the Russian president stipulating, in particular, creation of military bases on Latvian territory. In his words, this situation "has brought about an extremely high political tension" and requires an "utterly new assessment and additional international support". The Latvian prime minister believes this document should be officially withdrawn "at the highest level".

Birkavs gave to understand that the instruction had complicated the signing of an agreement with Russia on troops withdrawal. However, Latvia is ready to sign such an agreement, he said.

According to Birkavs, Another subject for discussion during the meeting with Butrus-Ghali was the "so-called violations of human rights" in Latvia. "I would like to say that in its turn, upon troops withdrawal, a law on citizenship which will take into account many recommendations of the Council of Europe and the CSCE high commissioner for national minorities will be adopted", Birkavs said.

Faction Requests Review of Russian Borders

WS0804134794 Riga DIENA in Latvian 26 Mar 94 p 1

[Article by Eriks Matulis: "Problems With Puduri Station Arose Due to Uncertain Latvian-Russian Border"]

[Text] Riga, 24 Mar—Today, in compliance with a proposal by the "Fatherland and Freedom" faction, the Saeima [parliament] conveyed a request to Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs asking him to clarify the circumstances under which the Puduri railway station situated on Latvian territory, at the village Baltinava, was turned over to Russian administration, and what steps the government intends to take to resolve problems connected with this issue.

In Autumn 1991, the structure of "Soviet Railways" was liquidated. It was then that "Baltic Railways," which was part of the old system, turned the Puduri railway station over to Russia. The board of "Baltic Railways" made this decision without discussing the matter with the Latvian Government, Robert Milbergs, head of the parliamentary Commission on Investigation, told DIENA.

As Vladimirs Zacharovs, chief of the Latvian Prosecutor's Office Transport Department, who is investigating the case, told DIENA today, after the annexation of the Abrene district by Russia in 1946, the border dividing the two states was not precisely delineated. It was only mentioned that the border follows the river, but the river course has changed after drainage operations.

A high-ranking official of the joint stock company "Baltic Railways," who did not want his name mentioned, stated that he thinks the "Fatherland and Freedom" request is baseless, as in 1991 the administrative borders clearly showed that Puduri station is situated on Russian territory. This can be confirmed by simply looking at a map.

The Saeima will investigate the controversy over Puduri station and all problems related to the borders, during its spring session, after it receives clarification from the Cabinet of Ministers.

Russians Hand Over Control of Daugavpils Fortress

WS0804155694 Tallinn BNS in English 1407 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Daugavpils, Latvia, Apr 08, BNS—The leaders of the east Latvian city Daugavpils took over the authority of the Daugavpils fortress from the Russian servicemen Thursday [7 April].

The fortress housed an aviation institute that was sent Russia last year. [sentence as received] Until recently, a 150-men unit was stationed in the historic buildings.

The municipality plans to locate there a Home Guard unit, a faculty of the Daugavpils Pedagogical University and a tuberculosis hospital. However, the final resolution on the fate of the fortress rests with the Latvian Government.

Minister Departs for Conference in Lithuania

WS0804155494 Tallinn BNS in English 1407 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Riga, Apr 08, BNS—Latvia's Health Minister Normunds Zemvaldis left for Lithuania Friday [8 April] to participate in the Latvian Medicine Day and presentation of the Minotaur international corporation and the Latvian-U.S. JV Amerilat firm there.

Amerilat wholesales medical equipment and apparatuses while Minotaur organizes private practice.

President, Home Guard Discuss Cooperation With Police

WS1104083294 Tallinn BNS in English 1656 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Riga, Apr 09, BNS—Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis, who also heads the country's voluntary paramilitary organization, the Home Guard, met Friday [8

April] with its Kuldiga branch Commander Egons Granatskis and discussed cooperation opportunities between Home Guard and police.

Granatskis told Ulmanis that the recent directives that demand strict coordination of all Home Guard actions with state institutions make quick actions impossible.

Commenting on financial issues, Ulmanis said that he and Staff Cmdr. Juris Eihmanis would decide on the distribution of state budget funding for the needs of the Home Guard. Home Guards should be allowed to perform private guarding orders in addition to their direct service duties, said Granatskis.

Ulmanis said he planned to tour all Latvian Home Guard battalions soon to acquaint himself with the work and problems of Home Guards.

Battalion Leaves for Month-Long Field Exercises

WS1104083694 Tallinn BNS in English 1919 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Riga, Apr 08, BNS—The Latvian Defense Forces Staff Battalion left this week for a month-long field exercise in the Adazi district near Riga, battalion Cmdr. Janis Skrodelis told reporters. The field exercise takes place in compliance with the battalion's training plan and includes tactical drill, topography, shooting, physical and psychological courses.

Interior Ministry Ready To Guard Press House

WS0804154994 Tallinn BNS in English 1407 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Riga, Apr 08, BNS—Latvian Interior Minister Girts Kristovskis, commenting on an open letter by the Press Publishers and Editors Association and the Media Foundation, said Friday [8 April] that his ministry is ready to put guards in the Press House in case of necessity.

The letter to Kristovskis and Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs, published by several day newspapers recently, complained of attempts by organized criminals to control the press.

Last month, people were beaten up publicly in the Press House and offices of newspapers and the Press House administration threatened, according to the letter.

The authors of the letter demand that the Interior Ministry ensures the security of the 20-storey Press House, which houses offices of numerous editions, as well as a large printing office. Kristovskis said that he had heard about the events in the Press House but received, so far, no claims as a minister. In addition, the publication of the open letter may have create wrong impression that the Interior Ministry refuses to perform its duties, Kristovskis said. Kristovskis says he read the letter only in newspapers but never received it himself.

Decision on Relay of Ostankino Broadcasts

LD0804162694 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1500 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Today, the Radio and Television Council came to a decision on the situation that has arisen with the relay of Ostankino Television Company broadcasts on the territory of Latvia. It is completely cleared up until 1 June this year, when possibly the issue of the Russian state budget and the ability of Ostankino to pay for the relay of its programs to the Latvian Radio and Television Center will be solved. Until 1 June Ostankino will be relayed at its present extent, on condition that losses incurred by the relays not paid for will not be covered from the Latvian state budget. Likewise, the Latvian Radio and Television Council maintains the right to deploy free broadcasting time to other programs. The Council resolved to announce a competition for free air time on Latvian television networks. It will decide separately on the terms of the competition.

Lithuania

Brazauskas Appoints New Military Leaders

WS0804134894 Tallinn BNS in English 1022 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Vilnius, Apr 08, BNS—Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas named Lt. Col. Arvydas Pocius to head the staff of the Voluntary State Defense Service. Col. Stasys Knezys, head of the Lithuanian joint chiefs of staff, has been appointed as chief inspector of defense forces.

Knezys told the Lietuvos rytas newspaper that his main duty will be to analyze the situation in the system of national defense.

The colonel earlier also served as government commissioner for Russian troop withdrawal from Lithuania.

Premier To Visit Kuwait, Discuss Credits

WS0804134994 Tallinn BNS in English 1022 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Vilnius, Apr 08, BNS—Lithuanian Prime Minister goes to Kuwait April 9 for a two-day visit.

At a press conference in Vilnius Thursday [7 April], Slezevicius said he intends to sign a bilateral agreement on investment protection and to hold talks on credits for Lithuania.

Slezevicius said a Kuwaiti foundation supporting economic development in some countries has already offered a preferential 50-million-dollar loan to Lithuania. The premier said the money would be used for various energy projects, including construction of new gas pipelines and renewal of gas networks in several Lithuanian towns. Slezevicius said part of the loan may be used to finance the Lithuanian oil terminal project.

The Lithuanian premier said Kuwait is one of the biggest financial donors of the World Bank. Hence, he said, if the first credit is used properly, further financial support can be expected.

Parliament Passes Law on Excise, Value-Added Taxes

WS0804155794 Tallinn BNS in English 1407 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Vilnius, Apr 08, BNS—The Lithuanian parliament on Thursday [7 April] adopted a law on excises and passed several amendments to the value-added tax law. Both laws come into effect May 1.

The size of excises will be determined by the government. According to the new law, excises will be imposed on beer, chocolate, cocoa, liquors, tobacco, jewelry, gasoline, diesel fuel, luxury cars, as well as publication of erotic or violent nature. Excises will not be applied to coffee and electric energy.

Finance Minister Eduardas Vilkelis told Lithuanian TV that the excises law should not strongly affect prices, although some goods may become more expensive.

The value-added tax will replace the currently existing 18-percent general excise tax. The new tax rate is also 18 percent. The value-added tax will be imposed on all import, including energy.

The amendments adopted Thursday create slightly more favorable conditions for local producers. Payment of the tax may be put off to enterprises that import much material resources. The parliament also extended the term of paying the tax.

According to various estimations, the value-added tax will increase prices by an average of 8 to 10 percent. But Vilkelis said a package of documents on compensations for the price-leap will soon follow. The minister said the government intends to raise pensions and budget salaries by no less than 10 percent May 1.

Communists, Zhirinovskiy Allies 'Watched'

WS0804201794 Tallinn BNS in English 1714 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Vilnius, Apr 08, BNS—Some 100 to 150 people in Vilnius may be related to communists and Russian ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's party, the LIETUVOS RYTAS newspaper reported with reference to the Lithuanian National Security Service.

The newspaper said several members of the underground in Vilnius and some other Lithuanian towns are constantly watched. The security service knows secret addresses and routes used to deliver underground communist publications to Lithuania from Belarus and the Kaliningrad region, LIETUVOS AIDAS [as received] said.

According to the report, the communist underground and Zhirinovskiy's supporters became especially active when coup leaders were amnestied in Russia.

Leaflets claiming that Lithuania is a historical territory of Russia and that Lithuanians are assimilated Slavs appeared in some parts of Vilnius in late March.

LIETUVOS AIDAS said the security service sees no need to detain any members of the underground yet because their activities pose no major threat and it is better to watch them in order to reveal the whole system.

The newspaper pointed out a connection between the communist underground and the recently created Socialist Party of Lithuania, whose program was published in an underground communist newspaper.

Closed LDDP Meeting Views National Defense

WS1104082994 Vilnius RESPUBLIKA in Lithuanian 2 Apr 94 No. 64 p 2

[Report by Audrius Baciulis: "A Very Heated and Confidential Meeting"]

[Text] The meeting of the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party [LDDP] Presidium, which began at 0700 on Thursday [31 March], was only concluded this morning. According to information obtained by RESPUBLIKA, the six-hour discussion on national defense problems was very heated. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister A. Slezevicius, National Defense Minister L. Linkevicius, leaders of the LDDP and its faction, members of the Seimas [parliament] National Security Committee [NSC] who belong to the LDDP faction, and V. Juskus, chairman of the Seimas Commission for Investigating Economic Crimes.

Participants in the meeting decided not to provide any information to the press and restrict themselves to an official report (by doing this they deprived the press of the chance to present objective and overall information) which was circulated yesterday by the government rather than the party spokesman. According to the information, the meeting heard L. Linkevicius' report entitled "National Defense: Condition and Perspective," discussed the overall concept of defense, the upgrading of the national defense system, and closer cooperation among the National Defense Ministry [KAM], the government, and the NSC.

According to RESPUBLIKA information, the larger part of the meeting was devoted to the clarification of relations between the KAM and the NSC. The meeting drew the conclusion that there were no contradictions in principle and proposed to resolve the existing mutual claims. According to one participant in the meeting, who wished to remain anonymous, the failure to do so "can mean trouble." According to the words of another participant, the meeting demanded the L. Linkevicius toughen up order in the Army so officers do not discuss whether the Army needs a commander or not. Participants in the meeting also insisted on an investigation into the fate of the property of the [former Soviet] Society for Assisting Army, Air Force, and Navy. Explanations concerning this issue should be provided by former National Defense Minister A. Butkevicius and current Deputy Minister J. Gecas.

NSC members were reprimanded for violating the law and providing secret information to the press. As the third person who wanted to remain anonymous said, if NSC members continue to violate the law, "relevant conclusions will be drawn." Some representatives of the LDDP faction demanded that the NSC not admit journalists to its meetings in the future.

The fourth participant of the meeting, who did not want to be named, said that V. Juskus, chairman of the Seimas Commissions for Economic Crimes, had stated with determination that as long as he headed the commissions, the national defense case [reference to arms deals] would be investigated to the very end. J. Juskus demanded that some LDDP faction members did not hang around the prosecutor's office and interfere with the investigation. [LDDP faction chief] J. Karosas denied this information. He told RESPUBLIKA that neither he nor the other four faction members impeded the investigation of the national defense case, but only inquired to the prosecutor's office whether "this matter was not forgotten."

According to information from the editorial office, the next meeting may address the fate of L. Linkevicius. There were also proposals to demilitarize the KAM by placing all servicemen and the counterintelligence service under the Army commander, and to reduce the staff at the ministry and its International Relations Department.

Landsbergis on Opposition Statement on Defense

WS1104091394 Vilnius ELTA in English 2114 GMT 8 Apr 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 474]

[Text] Vilnius, April 8, ELTA—Seimas [parliament] opposition leader Vytautas Landsbergis commented a statement signed by five factions of opposition "On tensions in national defence structures".

Authors of the statement—elders of the Motherland's Union, Christian Democratic, Lithuanian Nationalists, Democratic and Freedom factions—have said that various facts including searches in flats of military officers violating the Constitution are showing artificially created tensions.

The document said that "one of basic sources of the tension is the present activity of Seimas National security committee and its leading group, the wrong way chosen to exceed powers of parliamentary control and to take on functions of executive power." That is why "distrust in the chairman of the committee grew up as well as the necessity to change the composition of the committee," the opposition said.

Landsbergis told the news conference the committee, instead of preparing documents for the programme "Partnership for Peace," national security concept and other strategic documents, was seeking to take over the management of the whole national defence system.

Asked by journalists Landsbergis said the Motherland's Union was not approving the procedure of non-confidence in the present government launched by social-democrats. "We are for moral and political interpellation to the ruling Democratic Labour Party (LDDP) but not to the government of Adolfas Slezevicius", he explained.

He also said he did not see any "reserves for ruling party to form a better government". He hinted that "Motherland's Union plans to make a very clear and concrete step concerning political future of Lithuania next week."

Board Seeks Funds To Transmit Ostankino, Mayak

WS1104091494 Vilnius ELTA in English 2114 GMT 8 Apr 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 474]

[Text] Vilnius, April 8, ELTA—Lithuanian radio and TV board has appealed to the government asking to allot money to re-transmit "Ostankino" TV and "Mayak" radio programmes in Lithuania. The board chairman Gediminas Ilgunas confirmed this in a news conference on Friday [8 April].

If the government approves the offer, "Ostankino" programme would be seen shorter than previously: daily from 18.00 until the end or 45 hours a week. It would cost about 800,000 Lt [litas] a year, Ilgunas said.

Programme of "Mayak" radio is suggested to broadcast only in ultra-short range daily from 7.00 to 24.00.

Shortening of the programme or refusing it is determined by the fact that "Ostankino" company that had earlier paid for re-transmission of its programmes in Lithuania now refused to do that. At the moment, the company is heavily indebted to Lithuanian communication services.

Free time of the 2nd TV channel where only "Ostankino" programmes had been shown is planned to lease for private TV companies in a competition.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government. Users of this publication may cite FBIS or JPRS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying them as the secondary source.

Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) and Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS) publications contain political, military, economic, environmental, and sociological news, commentary, and other information, as well as scientific and technical data and reports. All information has been obtained from foreign radio and television broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, books, and periodicals. Items generally are processed from the first or best available sources. It should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed. Except for excluding certain diacritics, FBIS renders personal names and place-names in accordance with the romanization systems approved for U.S. Government publications by the U.S. Board of Geographic Names.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [] are supplied by FBIS/JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how the information was processed from the original. Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear from the original source but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source. Passages in boldface or italics are as published.

SUBSCRIPTION/PROCUREMENT INFORMATION

The FBIS DAILY REPORT contains current news and information and is published Monday through Friday in eight volumes: China, East Europe, Central Eurasia, East Asia, Near East & South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and West Europe. Supplements to the DAILY REPORTs may also be available periodically and will be distributed to regular DAILY REPORT subscribers. JPRS publications, which include approximately 50 regional, worldwide, and topical reports, generally contain less time-sensitive information and are published periodically.

Current DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are listed in *Government Reports Announcements* issued semimonthly by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161 and the *Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications* issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

The public may subscribe to either hardcover or microfiche versions of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications through NTIS at the above address or by calling (703) 487-4630. Subscription rates will be provided by NTIS upon request. Subscriptions are available outside the United States from NTIS or appointed foreign dealers. New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.

U.S. Government offices may obtain subscriptions to the DAILY REPORTs or JPRS publications (hardcover or microfiche) at no charge through their sponsoring organizations. For additional information or assistance, call FBIS, (202) 338-6735,or write to P.O. Box 2604, Washington, D.C. 20013. Department of Defense consumers are required to submit requests through appropriate command validation channels to DIA, RTS-2C, Washington, D.C. 20301. (Telephone: (202) 373-3771, Autovon: 243-3771.)

Back issues or single copies of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are not available. Both the DAILY REPORTs and the JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at many Federal Depository Libraries. Reference copies may also be seen at many public and university libraries throughout the United States.